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AIS Bulletin

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The American Iris Society

Officers & Committee Chairpeople

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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Society for Siberian Iris	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Spuria Iris Society	9.00	20.00	12.00	24.00
Society for Japanese Iris	5.00	12.50	6.00	15.00
Reblooming Iris Society	7.00	18.00	8.00	21.00
Society for PCNs	8.00	20.00	10.00	23.00
Species Iris Group	9.00	24.00	10.00	25.00
Dwarf Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	10.00	24.00	12.00	30.00
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Society for Louisiana Irises	10.00	25.00	12.00	34.00

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President's Message

by Jeanne Clay Plank, California

The Iris Society of Minnesota did an excellent job hosting the 2005 AIS Fall Board of Directors meeting held in Minneapolis over the first weekend in November.

The Fall Board welcomed new AIS General Secretary Patricia Randall and new AIS Treasurer Jill Bonino, reflecting the changes that took place following the retirement of former Treasurer Jay Hudson at the end of the fiscal year. An additional change took place in late summer when Bill Mull resigned his AIS Director position. Bob Pries (Region 18), appointed by the Board in Minneapolis, stepped in to fill out the remaining two years of Bill's term.

The topics most occupying the attention of the Board were finances and membership, two aspects of the AIS that are in a "deficit" mode. The deficit budget condition with which AIS is struggling is a direct result of the incredible hike in liability insurance costs. Jim Morris, Greater Saint Louis Iris Society President, and Riley Probst, 2005 Convention Chair, presented a generous and much appreciated donation in the form of a \$2000 check to the AIS Board. The money, part of the proceeds from the 2005 Convention, was designated to help defray the cost of the AIS liability insurance premium. This gift will be a solid contribution toward reducing this year's deficit. The Board is very grateful for this display of financial and moral support from GSLIS, Region 18 and the 2005 Convention Committee.


The membership "deficit" is a much more difficult situation to evaluate — to identify cause and effect. There is precious little comfort in knowing that our experience with membership drop-off reflects the experience of most volunteer plant and service organizations, as well as periodicals of all sorts. Much attention was devoted to finding new ways to address this problem of our times. A Membership Advisory



Jeanne Clay Plank

Committee has been formed under the guidance of Membership Secretary Tom Gormley to examine ways to attract and hold AIS membership. There are many innovative minds in the AIS, and I every have confidence that input from such thinking will spark a contemporary approach to attracting and holding membership in this electronic age of instant information and answers.

Since the Spring Meeting in St. Louis, a Scientific Advisory Committee has formed under the chairmanship of Gary White. All things scientific in the AIS will be submitted to the SAC for counsel and advice. The committee is composed of 11 members scattered nation-wide with interests and backgrounds in plant sciences. They have spent an active summer and fall conferring by email. They have taken their work seriously, have produced a statement of purpose, have defined five focus areas for committee consideration and deliberation, and have produced a Policy Statement on Iris Conservation that was presented to and approved by the AIS Board in Minneapolis (printed elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin*). It has been a dynamic coming together and, I hope, an exciting promise of things to come.

The wonders of the Portland convention lie ahead. Not only will it be an opportunity to see and admire beautiful gardens, but also it will be a valuable opportunity to gather, discuss and share your ideas on how to make the American Iris Society a thriving, vital mechanism for the preservation, advancement and enjoyment of irises around the world. Come to Portland, attend meetings, listen and participate. Make your voice heard in the direction of our Society. 

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Editor's Message

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

As there may be several short articles by me in this issue of the Bulletin, I will not include a "formal" Editor's Message. (As I write this, I have no idea yet of how much space I will have, so some things may be held over for April.) Instead, I would like to share a letter received from Paul & Melissa Sizemore of Chapel Hill, Tennessee.

Before that, however, I'd like to clarify something from October issue of the Bulletin. On page 51 there is a photo of a beautiful iris identified at MOBOT as a seedling from Gerald Richardson; however, it is actually that hybridizer's named variety ELEVATOR UP ('05). Watch for it! Gerry does excellent work, which often does not get the recognition it deserves.

I enjoyed the following letter so much because it illustrates two of the very best things I've found as a member of the American Iris Society: the generosity of those who have, and the appreciation of those who receive:

Dear Bruce:

We noticed in the October AIS Bulletin in the 'In Memoriam' section that J. Owings Rebert had passed on. I'd like to share a few words about our friend.

While surfing the internet in late summer of 2000, I came across the HIPS website. I was interested by the picture of DR. MOODY and noticed that its 'owner' was listed as J. Owings Rebert of Westminster, MD. We decided to write and ask if he might be willing to share DR. MOODY with us. We were surprised later when a package arrived containing DR. MOODY as well as an offer from the Reberts to come to their garden and dig whatever we wanted, as they wanted to downsize. Yahoo! We immediately wrote back and told them we'd be there sometime the following summer. In early August of 2001, we traveled to Maryland and spent an entire day with Owings and Doris, choosing, digging, and trimming irises to add to our own collection.

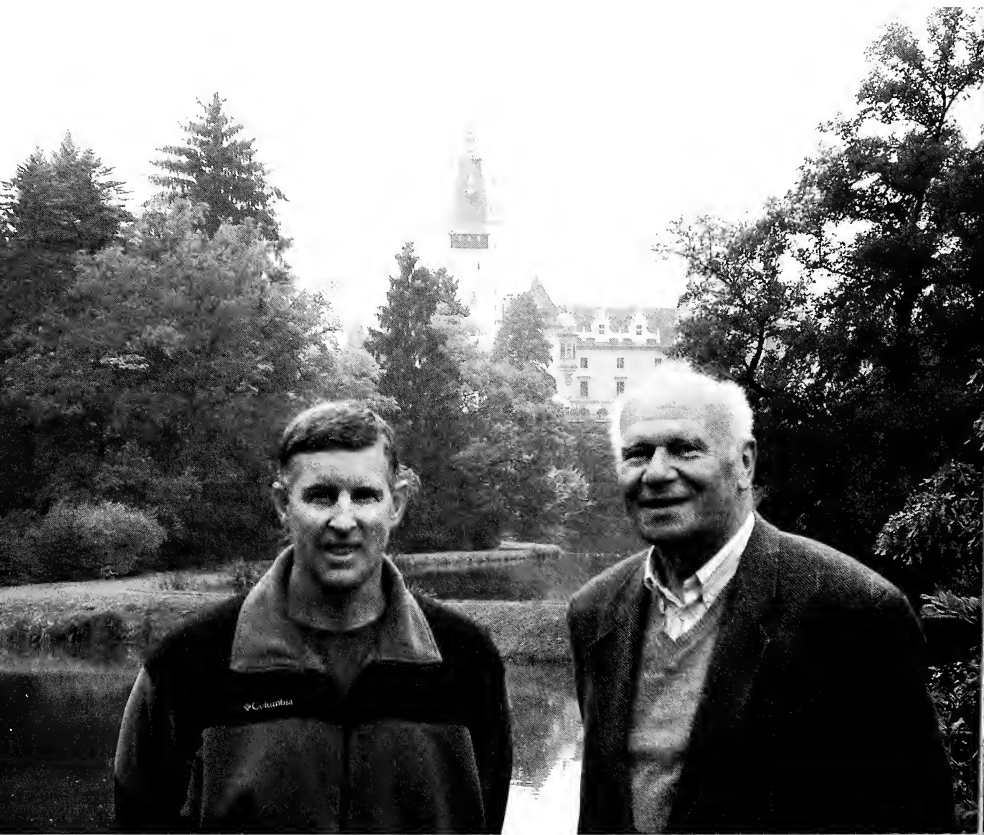
I think we ended up with nearly 300 cultivars of bearded iris as well as some beardless, but we left with a lot more than plants. We left with stories of how they came to own certain irises like the unknown plant they called

'Mrs. Koones.' Owings remembered his mother receiving the iris from a Mrs. Koones when he was about five years old. We discussed the beauty of the older iris cultivars, and why some people seem to pigeonhole others as either those who love antique irises or those who are 'modern purists.' The Reberts shared the three irises with which they had won Queen of Show: WINE AND ROSES, TINSEL, and SILVER WEDDING. But most important of all, we left their home with their friendship.

We were never privileged enough to see the Reberts' garden in bloom, but it was obvious to us, even in the summer, that it must have really been something! We were truly blessed by knowing Owings Rebert, and we will never forget him. I only hope that someday we'll be able to mentor someone as Owings and Doris did for us.

Sincerely,

Paul & Melissa Sizemore 



Editor Filardi (left) with Dr. Milan Blazek
in Prague, Czech Republic, October '05.

Youth Views

by Cheryl Deaton, California

Hello, everyone! 2006 is going to be a very exciting year. Are you going to the AIS National Convention in Portland, Oregon? I hope to see many youth representatives from the regions attend the convention. It is not too early to start planning for your trip. Be sure your RVP knows that you are interested in representing your region at the convention, and who knows?: They might just be willing to help you achieve your goals.

Ackerman Essay Topic Announced

“What I Hope to See In My Iris Future” is the topic for the 2006 Ackerman Essay Contest as announced by Claire Honkanen, Essay Contest Chair. The contest is sponsored by the AIS Foundation and there will be two prizes of \$100 each for writers in two categories, ages 12 and under, and ages 13 through 18.

To begin your essay, try these helpful hints. What have you noticed about the newer irises that the hybridizers have introduced? Is there one hybridizer whom you prefer? Why or why not? Do you see a trend? What about your own garden? What kind of changes have you made in what you like to grow, how you care for your garden, the types of companion plants you grow with your irises? Where do you get your information? Do you visit other gardens, check out the internet, read references like the Bulletin? What is unique about your garden? How did it grow into what you see today?

Take a few of these ideas and write some sentences to support your ideas. These will become the paragraphs for the middle of your essay. You will need an introductory paragraph to explain your beginning concept of the subject, and a few sentences at the end to explain your conclusions. That's all there is to it! I know you can do it! Of course, you will need to check your spelling and punctuation. An adult, such as a parent, teacher or club member can give you a bit of help here, but make sure this is your own work!

Double-check everything before you submit the final draft. Your essay must be 500 words or less, and it is due no later than March 31, 2006.

Send your neatly typed or written essay with your name, address, and date of birth to: Claire Honkanen, PO Box 24, Signal Mountain, TN 37377.

Let your imagination soar with this essay topic. The winning essays will be announced at the 2006 National Convention and published in a future issue of the Bulletin. Good luck!

Coloring Contest Winners

This year's picture was drawn by Dr. Donald Spoon of Winterberry Gardens in Virginia. It shows a kaleidoscope of iris. Thank you, Don & Ginny, for your donation of this wonderful drawing. The Overall winner of the AIS Youth Coloring Contest is Rachel Hindle of Region 18, who also won last year's Coloring Contest. The judges were impressed by her shading techniques. Please see her winning entry elsewhere in this issue. The creativity award was given to 8 year old Sarah Green of Region 21. First place winners in the following age groups are: 6 and under, Jordan Wilson of Region 12; 7 to 9 years old, Sarah Green; 10 to 12 years old, Miriam Winzer of Region 22; 13 to 15 years old, Victoria Adkins of Region 7; 16 to 18 years old, Rachel Hindle. Cash prizes were awarded to all the entrants. Congratulations everyone!


Special Thanks

Youth members were sent iris rhizomes donated from the 2005 AIS Convention gardens in St. Louis, Missouri, by the Greater St. Louis Iris Society. Shipping costs were covered by a donation from the Kirkwood Iris Society. Thank you to all of those who were involved in this generous gift to AIS Youth.

Clarke Cosgrove Deadline

Just a reminder to all AIS members, youth advisors, club presidents and RVPs that the nominations for the Clarke Cosgrove Award for Youth Achievement must be postmarked/e-mailed NO LATER THAN January 31, 2006, to Cheryl Deaton, 27218 Walnut Springs Avenue, Canyon Country, CA 91351-3314 or to region15kids@hotmail.com. Your nominations may be sent as an attachment. Please refer to the guidelines for this award in the October issue of the Bulletin. Nominees' identities and locations are carefully concealed before being sent to a select panel of judges. The winner will

receive a trophy and cash prize during the Awards Banquet at the Portland Convention. I'm sure many of you know of a youth member who deserves to be nominated for this special award. Don't delay! Send those nominations today!

Visit the AIS youth website at www.youth-irises.com and please contact me with any questions, comments or ideas at <region15kids@hotmail.com>. This is a secure site and I welcome your input. Support AIS youth. They are our future. 

Region 14 Redwood Iris Society Celebrates 50 Years

The Redwood Iris Society would like to invite all of you to join them in celebrating their 50th anniversary. Redwood Iris Society was started by Mona Stipp and Leila Romer in 1956. Leila was the first President of RIS.

Date: May 6 and 7, 2006. We will start with our show, Saturday, May 6th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Our dinner is tentatively scheduled to be at the Broiler Steak House in Ukiah, CA, starting at 6 p.m. with a no-host bar and the dinner at 6:30. The cost of dinner will be \$20-\$22 per person. I have been in conversation with Phil Edinger and our hope is that he will be speaking to us on Historic Iris. Sunday we will have several gardens open for self-guided tours.

If you are interested in joining our celebration, let us know before April 15, 2006. You will pay for dinner at the dinner. If you would like a list of our local motels, we will be glad to e-mail them to you. Should you decide to come, bring your iris and join the show!

Ukiah is a great stop on you way to National in Oregon the following week. And there will be CAKE!

Contact: Leah Middleton, RIS Pres., leahland46@juno.com, (707) 462-6225, or 5180 Burke Hill Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482 

International News

by Anna & David Cadd, Editors caddsir@comcast.net

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 'HYBRIDS & IRIS' FLORENCE, ITALY MAY 5th-6th-7th 2006

From May 8 – 13, 2006, the 50th International Iris Competition will be held in Florence. Half a century has passed since its start and thousands of irises from all over the world have been cultivated in the Iris Garden at Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence.

On this occasion the Italian Iris Society will organize an International Symposium about 'Hybrids & Iris' to be held in Florence.

For more information and registration form, please visit:
http://www.irisfirenze.it/Sito_Inglese/index_en.htm

Related news from Clarence Mahan:

Maretta Colasante invited me to submit a paper to the Symposium, and I just completed and sent it to her. It is titled "The Father of Garden Iris Culture" and it explains how Christiane Filloles, Anne Marie Chesnais and I were able through research to discover biographical information on Marie-Guillaume de Bure, the man who launched the iris as a popular garden flower in France in the 1820s. The first chapter of my book on the early history of garden irises, which is now being edited by the publisher, is a biography of de Bure and his famous iris 'Buriensis'.

I was very pleased with the action of the AIS Board to give the Warburton Medal to the Italian Iris Society and Prof. Orsi, Margaret Cameron Longo, and Valeria Romoli.

**from Sergey Loktev, Russia:
Russian awards for 2006:**

SDB AM:

NASHA MASHA (Gavrilin)

VKUS MINDALIA (Loktev)

Dwarf Popularity Poll (SDB + MDB):

1. JAZZAMATAZZ

2. RINGER

3. (tie) DEMON, SERENDIPITY ELF, WEBMASTER

Median Popularity Poll (BB + IB + MTB):

1. (tie) BROWN LASSO, COUNTRY DANCE

3. (tie) FATHOM, STARWOMAN

SIB Popularity Poll (excluding 40-chrom. cultivars):

1. CAMBRIDGE

2. SHIRLEY POPE

3. SULTAN'S RUBY

TB Popularity Poll:

1. (tie) COPATONIC, SANTA

3. BEFORE THE STORM

TB awards:

High Award:

GUSARSKAYA BALLADA (Loktev)

AM:

MARTOVSKI SNEG (Koroliiov)

SPIASCHI LEV (Loktev)

SIMEIZ (Loktev)

Judges' Popularity Poll:

Each judge could enter (on a blank form) not more than 25 varieties (good growers and regular bloomers) that he/she observed in any Russian gardens during at least 3 years:

1. (tie) COPATONIC, SANTA

3. SUPREME SULTAN

from Fred Barnicoat, South Africa:

The Iris Society of Southern Africa staged its annual show during the second weekend in October. The winning varieties were:

Best Iris on Show: DYNAMITE

Best Yellow: LUXOR GOLD

Best White: White Lightning

Best Plicata: BRILLIANT EXCUSE

Best Louisiana: FOR DAD

Best Spuria: WEDDING CANDLE

Best Siberian: CAEZAR


Best in Novice Section: WELL ENDOWED 

AIS Insurance

by Michelle Snyder, Insurance Chair

For those of you who do not already know, our Liability Insurance is now with a new insurance company. If Certificates of Insurance are needed, I have made it much easier to obtain the needed documents.

To obtain Certificates of Insurance go to www.irises.org/insurance.htm and click on the text Request for Certificates of Insurance. Download the form, complete it as necessary, and fax it to the number shown.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either (818) 352-7018, or my email address of sammygiz@aol.com. 

Section Happenings

by Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant

Thanks to the Santa Rosa Iris Society in Region 14 for being the first affiliate to respond to this column initiated in October 2005. And the first Section to respond quickly was the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises. Editor Jody Noling, Columbus, OH, added me to their mailing list. Also responding with notice of their new ROOTS editor, Gesine Lohr, Alameda, CA, was the Historic Iris Preservation Society.

One of the challenges of this column will be to provide topical and interesting coverage of Section activities. I will do my best with your help. On that note, Roger Duncan brought us up to date on the status of plant shipment procedure from California, subsequent to our last issue report of the outbreak of Sudden Oak Death disease (SOD) and shipping prohibitions to Louisiana. Non-host nurseries that have been inspected and abide by certain state restrictions were allowed to ship plants in 2005 (in 2004 they were restricted for some states and banned totally to FL, LA and WV).

Duncan pointed out that Superstition Gardens and other inspected non-host iris gardens were approved for 2005 shipment. For those wanting to know more details about SOD (first discovered in 1993 in Germany, and the cause first identified in 2000 in California as *Phytophthora ramorum* or *Phytophthora* canker disease) you can visit the Microsoft Encarta online encyclopedia or the University of California's Integrated Pest Management online website. This disease has no known cure and is big-time serious business with coastal forests in California and Oregon now on quarantine with thousands of dead and dying trees. It has also spread from oaks (80 – 100% fatality rate) to young saplings of Douglas firs and California's famous coast redwoods – the Sequoias. This fungus is closely related to the pathogen which destroyed the potato crops of Ireland in the mid-1840s, causing the famine during which 1 million people starved and another 2 million immigrated to the United States.

Many of you know of the Longue Vue Gardens in New Orleans,

LA, and the efforts of SLI member Ann Donnelly in 2000 to restore the Wild Garden of Louisiana irises originally designed by Ellen Shipman and populated with plants by Caroline Dormon. Cain Burdeau reports that the Longue Vue estate is on life support. Hurricane Katrina hit hard, flooding the Iris Walk, swamping the wine cellar, and burying the gardener's quarters in muck. And the aftermath of stench, rot and mold in the historic Greek Revival mansion was downright awful. But it was attacked by Water Out, the company hired to dry out the house. They used trailer-mounted heating systems to pump hot air in, and large dehumidifiers to reduce temperatures in the galleries, flower arranging room, library, etc. The mansion is expected to recover. We will await a further report on the irises.

Dwarf Iris Society Newsletter editor Kelly Norris is a freshman horticulture major at Iowa State University. The DIS Board has expressed their collective pleasure with his editorial efforts while carrying a full academic schedule. His November issue goes to press as I write this at our *Bulletin* deadline, and contains my William J. Caparne piece, "A Gradual Awareness" which begins, "I gradually became aware of miniature dwarf bearded irises and their various early hybridizers such as Millet et Fils, Perry, Sass, Warburton, Doriot, Greenlee, Grapes, Mahood, Kavan, Cook, Douglas, Bennett Jones, collectors Randolph and Hanselmayer, and the dynamic duo of American Walter Welch and Englishman William J. Caparne." Char Holte of New Berlin, WI, has assumed the Databank Conservator position for DIS in addition to serving as Secretary. The databank is a listing of MDB cultivars and who grows them for matching needs with sources.

For SIGNA, President Will Plotner, Molalla, OR, reports that their photo online website celebrated its two-year anniversary in November and has become a real success. This iris species database has a new look worth your review at <http://www.badbear.com/signa/signa.pl?Introduction>.

Bob Pries of High Ridge, MO, reports that the new pictorial checklist of Spuria irises sponsored by the Spuria Iris Society will be published in January 2006. This checklist will contain over 200 color pages at a projected price of \$45. Pries has also worked for almost fifteen years preparing the Encyclopedia of Iris. The text, which I have reviewed, is over 90% complete and it is forecast to be published sometime in 2006 by SIGNA.

Speaking of new books, Clarence Mahan reports his "Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them" will be published in 2006 by Krieger Publishing Company. I have reviewed four chapters by the erudite Mahan and can report that our past AIS President has

a real keeper.

If you haven't already done so please place me on you group's mailing list and contact me with any newsworthy information at <morrisje1@aol.com>.

Future Events

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises will conduct a "Trek" on Sunday, May 21, 2006, prior to the AIS Convention in Portland, OR. They hope to see *I. gormanii*, the "yellow" *I. tenax* in its type locale, around Hagg Lake west of Portland. The trek is limited to 90 participants.

A combined Siberian/Species Convention is planned for Sunday, May 28, 2006, after the AIS Convention with a bus trip to the gardens of Tom & Ellen Abrego and Lorena Reid. The closing banquet will feature a presentation on Sino-Siberians by hybridizer Reed. The convention is limited to 300 people.

The Median Iris Society will hold a Median Convention Monday, May 7, 2007, in Lincoln, NE, immediately following the AIS Convention that year in Oklahoma City, OK. "2007 - Prairie Gold" will be hosted by the Lincoln Iris Society and held in conjunction with the Region 21 Spring Tour. A special 50th Anniversary edition of the MIS publication *The Medianite* has been funded and will be available in 2007, not as previously reported in 2006. ♪

The Sooner State Iris Society
is pleased to announce our TWENTY-FOURTH

POLLEN DAUBER'S SEMINAR

featuring VINCENT CHRISTOPHERSON of Arlington, Texas
speaking on LUMINATAS, GLACIATAS, PLICATAS & REVERSE AMOENAS

MARCH 24-25, 2006

Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City, OK

Vince will speak to the Society on Friday, March 24th following a 6:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner.

Pollen Dauber's Seminar will be on Saturday, March 25th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Seminar fee is \$20 per person (payable at the door).

For information, contact: Mona French or Greer Holland

Phone: 405-424-6634 E-Mail: mona@eclectic-garden.com

www.theirisfarm.com

How to Register and Introduce an Iris

by Mike Lowe, AIS Registrar

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises except bulbous irises.

Registration

(2005 changes to previous requirements and pricing are *italicized*.)

1. Write to the AIS Registrar/Recorder, Anne & Mike Lowe, 12219 Zilles Rd., Blackstone, Virginia 23824, for a registration blank, enclosing check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. The fee is \$10.00 per registration, or \$10.00 if transferring a name from a previous registration. This change went into effect 1 December, 2004.

2. At the same time, select a name which has not previously been used and submit it for approval. To determine availability of name, please refer to all ten-year Check Lists (beginning 1939) and annual Registrations and Introductions booklets (beginning 2000). *www.IrisRegister.com* is another resource for checking name availability. Please also suggest alternate names. A name is not registered until the registration application has been completed and approved and a certificate of registration returned to you.

3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Rules are subject to change, but at the present time the following names will not be permitted:

- a. Names of living persons without their written consent, or names of recently (10 years) deceased persons without permission of next of kin or other authority.
- b. Personal names containing the following forms of address or their equivalent in another language: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.
- c. Names including symbols, numerals, non-essential punctuation or abbreviations.


- d. Names beginning with the articles “a” or “the” or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
- e. Names in Latin or in Latinized form.
- f. Slight variation of a previously registered name.
- g. Names in excess of *four words* or thirty letters (*change effective 1 December 2004*)
- h. Names containing the word “iris” or “flag” or the species name of any recognized species of Iris, or formed wholly by recombining parts of the parental species’ names.
- i. Names containing the hybridizer’s name in possessive form.
- j. Names which exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. Heaviest Lace, Tallest Black) or which are composed solely of adjectives which could be construed as a simple description (e.g. Pale Blue, Ruffled).
- k. Names translated from the original language; they should be transliterated as necessary.

4. Previously registered names may be re-used only if (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in the parentage of later registrations, (c) *has not been previously re-issued* and (d) a statement of permission is obtained from the prior registrant.

5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof that no stock now exists and that the iris was not listed as a parent in registrations.

Introduction

Introduction is the offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, *internet offerings* and advertisements in the American Iris Society Bulletin are acceptable means of introduction. It is a requisite of awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. A variety is not eligible for listing on the awards ballot until after it has been recorded as introduced by the Registrar- Recorder. Send the Registrar a copy of your list, catalog, *a printed copy of the webpage and the webpage URL* or your advertisement, by first class mail so verification of introduction can be made.

The Registrar will supply a sample application form upon receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope *or a printable PDF registration form is available for download on www.irises.com in the registrations section.* 

AIS Calendar 2006

National Conventions

2006: May 22-27

Portland, OR

Chair:

John Ludi
35071 SE Highway 211
Boring, OR 97009
(503) 668-9230
kludi@juno.com

Headquarters:

Red Lion Hotel on the River
900 N. Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(800) 733-5466

2007: April 30 – May 5

Oklahoma City, OK

Chair:

F. W. McVicker
Route 3 – Box 10-K
Kingfisher, OK 73750
(405) 375-3115
fwm3115@peoplepc.com

Headquarters:

Oklahoma City Marriott
3233 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 842-6633

2008: April 14-19

Austin, TX

Chair:

Jim Landers
710 North 11th
Temple, TX 76501-3016

(254) 773-5017

jimlanders43@hotmail.com

Headquarters:

Omni Austin Hotel at
Southpark
4140 Governor's Row
Austin, TX 78744
(512) 383-2621

2009:

Kansas City, MO

Chair:

Debora Hughes
3395 Utah Road
Wellsville, KS 66092
(785) 883-4737
dhughes936@grapevine.net

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2006: November 3-5

Kansas City, MO

Chair:

Judy Keisling
12119 A Highway
Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 792-1848
keisling@swbell.net

Headquarters:

Clarion Kansas City Airport
Hotel
11832 NW Plaza Circle
Kansas City, MO 64153
(816) 464-2345

2007: Oct 31 – Nov 2
Raleigh-Durham, NC

Chair:

Susan Grigg
 105 Trotters Ridge Road
 Raleigh, NC 27614
 (919) 870-8345
 smgrigg@bellsouth.net

Headquarters:

Hilton Raleigh-Durham
 4810 Page Road
 RTP, NC 27709
 (919) 941-6000

2008: Oct 31 – Nov 2nd
Tulsa, OK

Chair:

Paul W. Gossett
 129 East 33rd Place
 Tulsa, OK 74105-2542
 (918) 742-1204
 pwgossett@juno.com 

CD of Newer Irises

If you purchased newer irises at sales this year but don't know what they look like, they may be included in the 830 pics on the 2005 AIS Convention Iris CD.

The 2005 Convention Committee did a great job putting the Guest Iris CD together with CD Chair Gary Keller working on it for two years of bloom. This is an easy-to-read CD with Power Point (labeled pictures print out individually - great for sales), jpgs individually and "Read Me" instructions plus list of credits for the photographers. All proceeds go to the 2005 Convention Fund hosted by Greater St. Louis Iris Society (GSLIS)

Order Iris CD Now

Additional copies of this CD will be available for limited time. The cost of \$15 dollars will include shipping. Make checks payable to GSLIS.

Gary D. Keller
 Convention Guest Iris CD
 565 St Joseph
 Florissant, Missouri 63031
 <gardenklr@aol.com> (put "Convention CD" in the subject line)


Reigning Iris 2006 Convention Update

Here we are six months before the big event in Portland and our convention headquarters hotel is completely booked. That's right – no more rooms available! Our backup hotel is the Oxford Suites located just one block from the Red Lion On The River. Room rates are \$97.00 plus tax for 2 people. Extra person charge is \$10.00 per person per night. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-548-7848 (direct line to this hotel) or call the local number 503-283-3030. Be sure to mention the “American Iris Society” to get the special rates. The address is 12226 North Jantzen Drive, Portland, OR 97217. For those that are driving, follow the same directions as to the Red Lion On The River. The Oxford Suites provide a complimentary full American Breakfast Buffet, a complimentary evening reception, and complimentary shuttle service.

Other hotels located nearby are:

Holiday Inn Express, 2300 North Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217. Phone: 1-866-267-0769, local: 503-283-8000. This hotel is located about 7 mile from the Red Lion On The River.

Courtyard by Marriott North Harbor, Residence Inn by Marriott, 11550 North Anchor Way, Portland, OR 97217. Phone: 503-735-1818. It is located about 2 miles from the Red Lion On The River.

At the present time there is no shuttle service between these hotels and the Red Lion On The River. 

Reigning Iris 2006

AIS National Convention - Sponsored by the Greater Portland Iris Society
Portland, Oregon - May 22-27, 2006

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS: Red Lion On The River, 909 N Hayden Island Dr., Portland, OR 97217
Reservations can be made by telephone (503) 283-4466 or (800) REDLION

Name _____ Region _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

Spouse or 2nd Person _____

Youth (s) _____

Name tags will be made as printed above. If this is your FIRST AIS Convention, check this box: ☐

Full Registration: Includes Welcome and Awards, Banquets and Garden Tours. Optional tours not included.

Postmarked: By March 1, '06 By April 1, '06 After April 1, '06

Registrant #1 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$225 ☐ \$250 Amount _____

Registrant #2 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$225 ☐ \$250 Amount _____

Youth 18 and under: Includes same as full registration. Optional tours not included.

No. Of Youth

_____ X ☐ \$150 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$150 Amount _____

Garden Tours Only: Includes bus, lunch & convention booklet. Optional tours not included.

Registrant #1 ☐ \$140 ☐ \$165 ☐ \$190 Amount _____

Registrant #2 ☐ \$140 ☐ \$165 ☐ \$190 Amount _____

Banquets Only: No convention booklet or bus. Optional tours not included.

	Welcome Banquet	Awards Banquet	
Registrant #1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	Amount _____
Registrant #2	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	Amount _____

Optional tours: All tours are offered two days, Mon. 5/22 and Tues. 5/23 on a first-come, first-served basis. Lunch is included with the price.

Registrant #1:	Portland Gardens	Gorge Tour	Mt. Saint Helens	
Monday	\$62 _____	\$40 _____	\$40 _____	Amount _____
Tuesday	\$62 _____	\$40 _____	\$40 _____	Amount _____

Registrant #2:	Portland Gardens	Gorge Tour	Mt. Saint Helens	
Monday	\$62 _____	\$40 _____	\$40 _____	Amount _____
Tuesday	\$62 _____	\$40 _____	\$40 _____	Amount _____

(Please indicate 1st & 2nd Choice by 1 or 2 by preference price.)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

(See next page for payment information and mailing.)

Visa or MasterCard ONLY: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

NOTE: Registration acknowledgments will be made via Email to save postage.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Those requiring special accommodations for persons with disabilities must be received in writing by the AIS Convention Registrar no later than April 1, 2006. If you have special diet requirements, please note on reverse side.

GEEK DINNER: Registration for the Geek Dinner should be made to Joanne Prass-Jones, 35572 Linda Dr., Fremont, CA 94536. Email: <joanne@usjoneses.com>

No refunds after May 1st.

Make checks payable to: AIS Convention 2006 and send to:

AIS Convention 2006

Judy Nunn, Registrar

4728 Jade St. NE

Salem, OR 97305-3138

Email: Nunnjk@comcast.net




2006 Silent Auction

Portland, Oregon

We are holding the Silent Auction again at the AIS Convention Portland, OR! That means we need your contributions to ensure the success that we have enjoyed in the past years. This year should be better than ever as a record attendance is predicted. More people to bid on more items than ever before!

The Silent Auction has become a popular part of our conventions and it is a fun way to raise funds for the support of AIS. Many people have iris treasures they could donate and it is a great way for hybridizers to get their new introductions seen in different parts of the country. We are looking for iris artifacts, iris books and new or recent iris introductions. However, if you would like to donate any other irises that are rare or unusual, that would work fine also. Just drop us a note and let us know what you have.

This year's convention is scheduled for May 22-28, 2006, so please let us know what you can donate no later than April 20, 2006 so we can prepare the bid sheets. Send a short note to our address below, e-mail us or call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Rita and Tom Gormley, 6717 Martha Drive, Cedar Hill, MO 63016; (636) 274-7435; GormleyGreenery@aol.com 



A table decoration in Florence, Italy

2006 Convention Host Gardens

compiled by Cynthia Bauer, Oregon

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

Terry and Barbara began their iris collection while landscaping their home in Minneapolis in the late 1960s. The endless variations of colors in the Schreiner catalog tweaked their curiosity, and annual additions to the collection continue to this day. To indulge their love of plants, Barbara and Terry selected the dramatic geography and gentle climate of the Northwest and moved to Vancouver, Washington, in 1974. Their iris collection has expanded steadily, and now covers about five acres. The Aitkens pride themselves in having different kinds of irises in bloom from early April into July, with a scattering of rebloom until freeze-up.

During their thirty plus years at this location, Terry's obsession with pollen daubing has steadily expanded until the seedling patch now occupies an acre "out back". Any iris that can produce a pod is subject to close scrutiny and "planned parenthood"! The commercial plantings are best described as a five-acre filing cabinet with irises planted by category and alphabetically. Veteran visitors can easily locate the plants they want to see. In addition to the 2006 Convention planting, special features will include hundreds of tall bearded varieties in the main display garden growing in mature clumps; an "amphitheater" of Siberians in four-year clumps, and a new planting of hundreds of varieties of Louisiana irises in two-year clumps down in the "wetlands". In addition, Bruce Filardi has an extensive collection of antique irises planted on the west slope of the property, along with many of the other irises he has collected from around the world. These should also be in good bloom for your visit.

Kath, David & Thomas Collier

The two-acre Collier garden located in the Sandy River valley is tucked between the majestic Mt. Hood and Portland, Oregon. The garden is relatively new, particularly the front acre which has been predominantly dedicated to this iris convention. This 'diamond in the

rough' features over 260 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas, with over a dozen varieties of Japanese maples. Something is blooming in the garden nearly year 'round with early rhododendrons, azaleas, and species iris following winter hellebores and heathers, for spectacular spring bloom. The spring celebration is further bolstered by a variety of fruit trees and dogwoods, with hostas and annuals competing for summer attention. The fall features unexpected blooms (from fall blooming irises and rhododendrons, roses), and stunning fall leaf color. In the winter, the garden features interesting shapes and colors, such as the stunning red bark of two large *Acer palmatum* 'Sangokaku' Coral Bark Japanese maples, nearly a dozen different heathers that sport red and orange foliage, nearly a dozen varieties of blue berries that flaunt their red fall foliage, and other interesting collectibles.

A small portion of the acreage is yet to be developed and remains fairly wild, attracting a variety of local wildlife which has included cougars, coyotes, opossums, raccoons, deer, elk, squirrels, fox, along with many types of birds (including an eagle nest next door). The Cooley's also raise nearly 500 orchids in their sunroom (they designed and contracted their passive solar home) and greenhouse 'for fun.' Come enjoy the spring bloom at our 'diamond in the rough.'

Cooley's Gardens

Cooley's Gardens was started in the early 1920's by Rholin and Pauline Cooley. They published their first catalog in 1928 with the help of Rholin's father, C. J. Cooley. The Cooleys' daughter, Miriam, married Larry Ernst who worked for Cooley's for over 50 years. Larry and Miriam's children, Richard and Georgie, now run the business with Richard's wife, Kati, and son, Corey, and Georgie's husband, Larry Johnson. Miriam and her other daughter, Judy Nunn, are both retired.

Cooley's farms 150-200 acres in bearded iris each year and ships some three million plants annually to retail and wholesale customers worldwide. During bloom season the shipping warehouse is converted to an indoor flower show to complement the four acres of display gardens.

Richard Ernst has been hybridizing for Cooley's since 1975 and has over 50 AIS and International awards to his credit. Larry Johnson also hybridizes and has begun to pick up some awards. In the past, Cooley's introduced for Kleinsorge, Hall, and Gaulter along with Gibson and others. Recently, Cooley's has been introducing tall bearded iris for the late Ben Hager, with Poem of Ecstasy winning the Wister Medal.

Cooley's has been a convention garden previously in 1949, 1960, 1972, and 1994. In 1985, the big move was made from the old 301

South James Street facility to the new complex on Silverton Road, just west of Silverton. This expansion increased capacity and efficiency as well as facilitating the creation of a new display garden, completed in four phases, with water features, gazebo, and raised beds of carved stones in a victory garden.

Chad Harris – Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm

Located in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area, we overlook the basalt cliffs of Crown Point, Oregon. We receive twice the rainfall (80 to 90 inches annually) as the Portland Airport, located only 15 miles away. Moving here ten years ago from Vancouver has allowed me to expand my breeding program with Japanese iris. In the off-season we keep busy with remodeling the old farmhouse and landscaping ten of the seventy-five acres surrounding our home. Around the house we are slowly reclaiming the blackberry overgrown fields and hillsides with native trees and other temperate plants from China and Japan. Collections of rhododendron, viburnum, peony, hemerocallis, pine and maple will be found with native and other species iris.

The bearded guest bed is located along side the driveway, and the beardless bed in front of the house. Hospitality with goodies, coffee and tea will be located under the cover of the garage. Restrooms and a natural spring fed pond planted with *I. laevigata* SEMPERFLORENS and pseudacorus ROY DAVIDSON are found next to the barn.

John & Kay Ludi – Mountain View Iris Gardens

John and Kay Ludi have continued to maintain and add to Mountain View Gardens in Sandy, Oregon. The garden, established in 1988 by John's parents, John and Wava, John Jr. and Kay, occupies more than two acres on the family's sixty-acre cattle ranch near the foot of Mt. Hood. The garden is accented with various archways built by John and several pieces of antique farm equipment owned by the Ludi family. The bearded guest irises are planted in the lower half of the garden close to the family home and fruit orchid. The beardless guest irises can be found about midway in the garden. The garden also contains John and Kay's personal collection of over 1200 named varieties of bearded and beardless irises.

Behind the garden, the Ludi family home is surrounded by trees, shrubs and perennials, which provide extra color. The beef cattle to include this year's calves can be found grazing on the rolling hills of the ranch. On a clear day, one can see Mt. Hood to the east and Mt. Adams

and Mt. St. Helens on the northern horizon.

Mid-America Garden – Paul Black and Thomas Johnson

We welcome you to Mid-America Garden. Paul and Thomas attended the AIS Convention held in Oregon in 1994. At that time, neither could have imagined being in Oregon and having a tour garden for the 2006 AIS convention. This year is also a noteworthy milestone for Mid-America Garden. We are celebrating Mid-America's 25th anniversary. Mid-America Garden was started in 1981 by Paul Black in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In 1994, Thomas Johnson moved from Canada and became a partner in the business. After several years of devastating problems for the irises, the garden was moved to its current site in Salem, Oregon, in 1998.

The garden is located on 11 acres, complete with rather steep slopes that add to its beauty and appeal. Both Thomas and Paul have large seedling patches each year as well as areas containing selected seedlings and future introductions. The commercial plantings of bearded and Siberian irises include many of the latest introductions from other hybridizers in addition to our own. Visitors are able to see many new introductions in a relatively small space.

The two-story house, which was built in 1916, is surrounded with many planting beds full of plant delights of all types. In addition to the large collection of irises, there are also extensive plantings of hostas, lilies, daylilies, peonies and one of the largest collections of hostas in this part of the country. There are also amazing collections of trees, shrubs and perennials. Most of these areas have matured into beautiful and serene vistas. Wide grass paths allow for easy enjoyment of the guest irises. Long rows of peonies adjacent to the guests should be in full bloom and will provide a beautiful visual complement to the approximately 500 guest irises


Will & Tracy Plotner – Wildwood Gardens

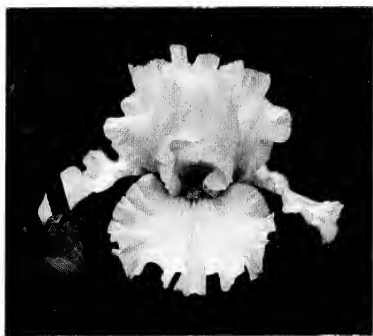
The gardens of William and Tracy Plotner are situated in the scenic southern part of Clackamas County beside the wild Molalla River. Clackamas County is known for the fact that it is the largest grower of Christmas trees in the world. It is also the home of Wildwood Gardens where Will grows the many types of iris and daylilies. The garden was started officially in 1984 with Will's first catalog and introductions (tall bearded, of course). The gardens were moved to the present location

about 15 years ago, shortly before the 1994 National Convention. After that convention, the garden was almost entirely destroyed by a flood. Since retirement, Will has begun the restoration of the gardens, a project which is still going on today and will probably continue indefinitely. A labor of love, he nestles his gardens and picnic areas amongst the trees and in meadow openings on his forested land. He enjoys the hard work and the satisfaction of bringing iris of all types and a few other plants to the public. Will is active in his home chapter of the Greater Portland Iris Society, currently serving as their President, and also as President of the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA), which takes up most of the rest of his free time.

Schreiner's Gardens

Schreiner's Gardens has long been associated in iris lovers' minds with the breeding and growing of quality Tall Bearded and Median Irises. The firm was begun by F.S. Schreiner in St. Paul, Minnesota, during World War I. In 1931, his son, Robert, took up the business, joined later by his sister Connie, and brother Bernard (Gus). Starting in 1935, the three tested many areas in the United States for iris growing; and in 1946 they moved to their present location in the fertile Willamette Valley, near Salem. The third generation, including Robert's son, David, his brother-in-law Tom Abrego, as well as Gus's children, Ray, Steve, and their youngest sister, Liz Schmidt, all manage vital aspects of the enterprise.

The Schreiners farm over 600 acres, planted in three-year rotation, to ensure optimum growth for the iris crop. For the convention they have expanded their display garden and added a garden gift shop. Official guest beds in the southwest end of the display garden contain 482 bearded cultivars as well as Schreiner's own introductions and best seedlings. Additional plantings include newer iris introductions from all sections of the United States and a bed of Dykes Medal winners from 1927 to the present. For conventioners who manage to see all this bounty in the allotted time, there is a wide path, fronted with lupines, poppies and pansies leading to the original formal display yard to the east, beside rhododendron, clematis and mature azaleas over ten feet high. Additionally, there is the indoor flower show, with stalks of all the catalog varieties displayed on tables, along with bunches of the current introductions. 



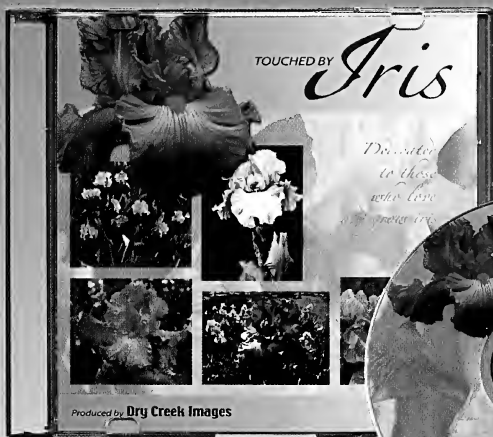
Noble Stature 2006

from George Hilton

146 Julia Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08610
1-609-599-4262 or
gahjr46@aol.com

NOBLE STATURE (Hilton) TB 39" (99cm) EML Sdlg.- HIL00-1-1. Beautifully ruffled, very pale, silvery blue white self. Style arms slightly darker at base. Standards closed. Falls flared and diamond dusted. Beards yellow, tips pale blue with yellow hairs. Strong stalks with 2 to 3 well spaced branches and 1 to 2 spurs will show 3 to 4 flowers at one time. Bud count 7 to 10, occasionally 11. Lowest flowers bloom just above foliage, allowing you to fully appreciate each bloom. Good substance enables it to withstand wind and rain. Fast grower. Pronounced sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. From noble parentage on tall stately stems. (Song of Norway x Silverado) \$35 (plus \$6.00 shipping and handling).

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Buffalo Creek Garden

2006 Introductions

Pure Prayer

SDB 9 EM

Pure white self; beard dark blue,
slight sweet fragrance. (EC)

Serenity Prayer X Unknown



Evening Shine

SDB 12 EM

S. reddish brown; F. yellow ground,
wide reddish brown plicata band
and veining; B. old gold; ruffled.

Firestorm X Bordeaux Pearl



Snow Shine

SDB 12 EM

Pure white self; F. white, large yellow
spot with white whiskers surrounding a
white B.; slight sweet fragrance.

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Seedlings

Clockwise from top right:

Mego sdlg AM-02-0933

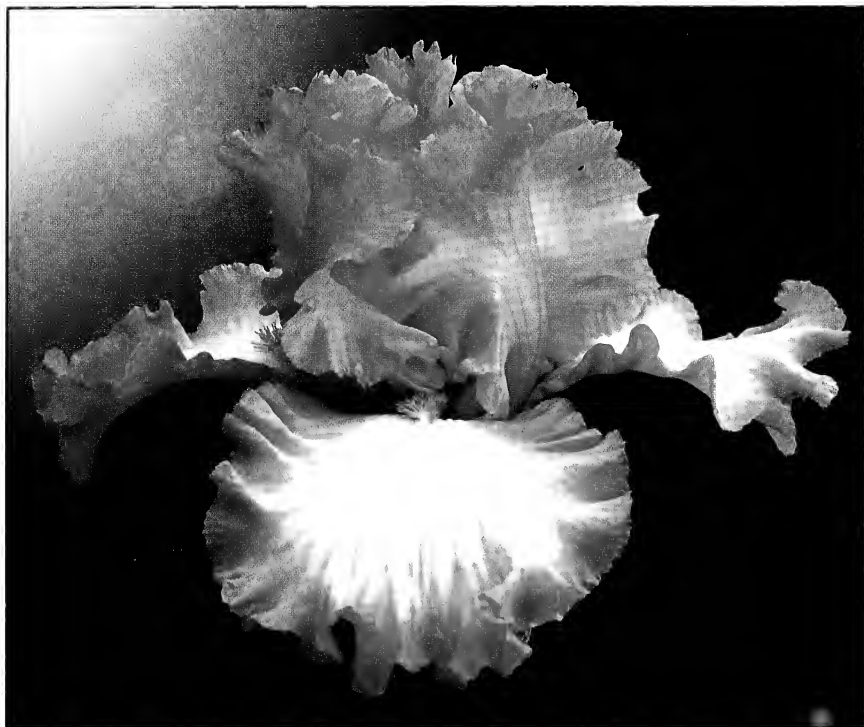
Mego sdlg AM-01-0710

Mego sdlg AM-02-1037

Mego sdlg AM-03-1223

Mego sdlg AM-00-0547





Irina's Gem (Juri Pirogov, 2006)
Iris aphylla. Collected in the
 Belgorod region of Russia. The one
 beautiful lavender among thousands
 of the usual purples. \$25.

Belle de Provence

(Lowell Baumunk 2006)

Tall Bearded. 34". Mid to Late Season
 Best Seedling Region 20 Show 2005.

Seedling 683G.

(Melba Hamblen X Caracas).

\$40 includes your choice of
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See our selection of Bearded Iris
 Species and Baumunk hybrids at:

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Sorry, no print catalog.



seedlings

Clockwise from top right:

Van Hooks sdlg (Hello Darkness X Epicenter)

Mego sdlg AM-03-1214

Van Hooks sdlg (Picante X Night Game)

Mego sdlg AM-01-0680

Mego sdlg AM-01-0708



A Letter from Your Editor

Dear Friends:

Shortly before I flew to Minneapolis in November for the Fall Board Meeting, a friend told me that he had heard that the AIS had operated at a deficit of \$30,000 for the last fiscal year. My heart was in my throat! If this news were correct, it would mean – of necessity – that major reductions would have to be made in the *Bulletin's* budget. I traveled to the Board Meeting with the expectation of bad news; I knew I would fight to maintain what I could of current funding, but I also knew that there is a point where you “can’t get blood from a stone...” Budget cuts could mean lower quality paper, less color, and even a reduction in frequency of publication; any of those would be very disappointing.

It was a tremendous relief to find out that the rumor was *not* correct. In fact, the AIS functioned just barely “in the black” for the fiscal year. (The end-of-the-year Financial Report appears elsewhere in this issue.)


Nevertheless, we are reaching a point where we must tighten our belt even more – and since the *Bulletin* is our largest budget item, it is the most likely place to impose budget cuts.

Why are we in this position? As you know, rising insurance costs are a major factor. But the biggest problem is a decline in membership. None of us are getting any younger, and, unfortunately, the average age of our membership steadily increases. We are not attracting enough new, younger members. For years, Jean Morris called for greater efforts to encourage and retain our youth members, and Cheryl Deaton is continuing Jean’s efforts. But we have not made enough progress.

We *must* increase our membership *now*!

In order to avoid *Bulletin* budget cuts, I ask each and every one of you recruit a new member in 2006. You could give a gift membership, persuade an interested neighbor to join, or recruit one of your gardening friends who is not a member but should be. At the Fall Board Meeting, the Board agreed to another year of the *Bulletin* with our current printer and current quality. But, as you know from your own households, we cannot spend more money than we are bringing in! If we don’t increase our membership, we just won’t be able to maintain the *Bulletin* at its current quality.

So please make 2006 the year that you recruited a new member to the America Iris Society!

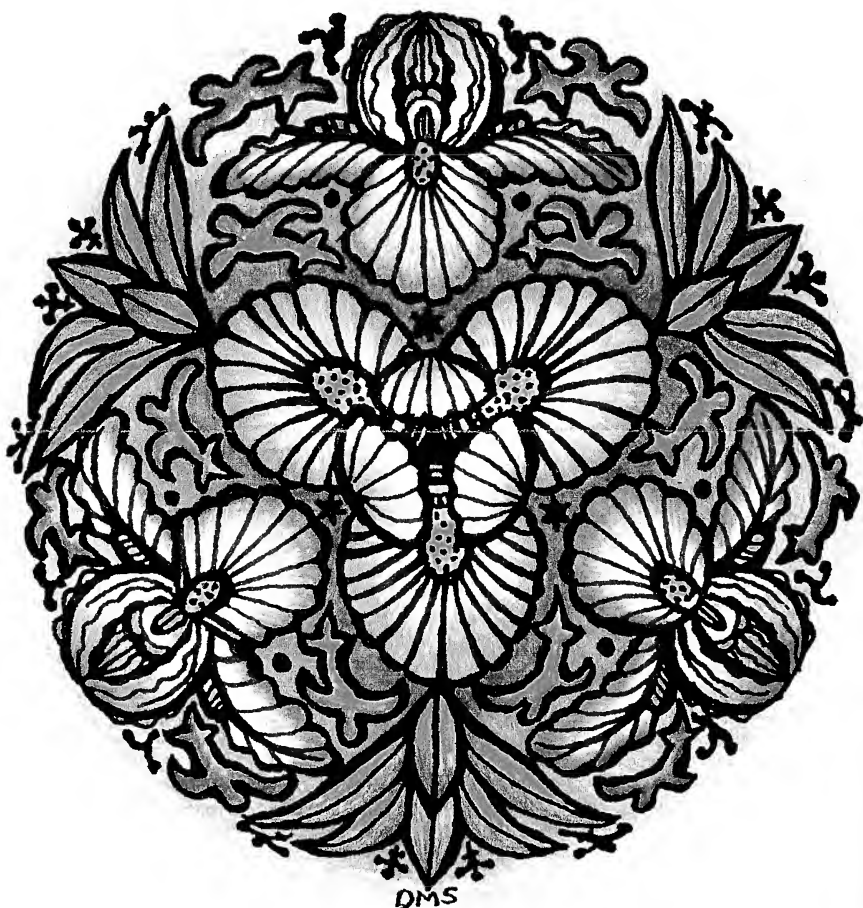
Thank you for your efforts,
Bruce Filardi 



Above left: ELEVATOR UP (G. Richardson)
Above right: NORA'S THRILL (G. Richardson)

Above photos: G. Richardson

Below: Coloring Contest Winner, Rachel Hindle of Hutchinson, KS



Another Approach to Red Irises¹

by Neil Mogensen, North Carolina

*"Roses are red,
violets are blue...."*

Not for long! Recent advances in molecular biology and the sequencing of RNA and DNA strings have begun to untangle the whole mystery of why "Roses are red...."

Our familiar violet-blue to blue-violet pigment in irises is usually one known as delphinin or violanin. It is a derived form of delphinidin, the parent molecule of these pigments. Delphinidin belongs to a large group of pigments known in general as anthocyanins, which include all the way from the bright red of pelargoniums (geraniums), gladiolus and tulips to the blue and blue-violet of pansies, delphiniums and irises.

Anthocyanins are part of a still larger group known as flavones. Flavones include a number of chemicals that aren't pigments as such, but play very important roles in plants in other ways. Some of the co-pigments that we talk about are flavones or flavonoids. These cooperate with delphinin to make Keith Keppel's SEA POWER or Schreiners' blues as blue as they are. The co-pigments don't have any conspicuous color of their own but can make quite a difference in how the main color looks.

The recent work with genetics and how flavones, including anthocyanins, are formed make a fascinating study in complex biochemistry. The whole process starts with a pair of fairly simple molecules called "geranyls." Step by step, a molecule called naringenin is built up. It has the basic framework on which all anthocyanins are formed. There are four basic families of the anthocyanin pigments, but here we are primarily concerned only with two of the four.

The main differences among the four families depend on a side ring of the basic framework (the B ring) that has three principal places where other ions or ionized parts of molecules can be attached. These are coded 3', 4' and 5', as the points on the secondary ring are numbered in sequence in a counterclockwise naming pattern from a

standardized starting point.

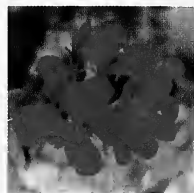
Our familiar delphinidin pigments have a hydroxyl (-OH) radical attached on all three of the 3', 4' and 5' placements on the B ring of the basic anthocyanin framework.

The word *radical* used in this sense describes two or more atoms grouped together in an enduring way, acting as if the cluster were a single atom in forming compounds. The grouping is not changed as it enters into and breaks from a bonding with another atom or atoms.

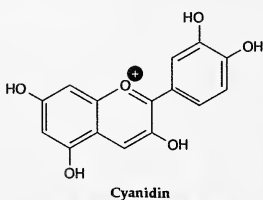
Examples of radicals are the familiar sulfate (SO_4) and carbonate (CO_3^{2-}) radicals, which we encounter frequently. The hydroxyl radical is made up of one hydrogen and one oxygen. The compound in which we encounter the hydroxyl radical most often is in simple water. Water is a hydrogen atom on one side, a hydroxyl radical on the other. We usually describe water as H_2O , but writing it as HOH would describe the molecule more accurately.

To understand what a chemical *ring* is, this is more easily grasped by seeing than by hearing described in words.

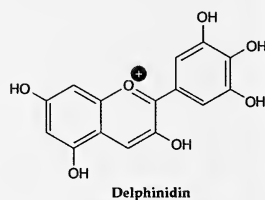
In the illustration of three of the anthocyanin family pigments, the chemical diagram of the core molecule shows the A ring on the left, the B ring off to the right hand side. The variations in anthocyanin families depend upon how many of the attachment points are filled with simple hydrogen, how many with the hydroxyl radical. In the illustration, pelargonidin pigments have one hydroxyl at the 4' position. Cyanidin, as seen in the rose pictured, has two, one in the 4'



Pelargonium
(Geranium)



Rosa
(Rose)



Delphinium
(Larkspur)

position, the other in the 5' attachment point. Delphinidin has three, using the 3', 4' and 5' bonding points for the attachment of the hydroxyl ions, or radicals.

The basic anthocyanin framework visible in naringenin, however, has a hydroxyl only on the B-ring 4' position. The 3' and 5' continue with hydrogen alone, as in the ancestral naringenin molecule.

Left alone, the synthesis sequence proceeds directly from naringenin to the pelargonidins, which also have only the B-ring 4' placement of the -OH in place of hydrogen as seen in the illustration. The colors range from brilliant scarlet to deep, true reds of gladiolus, tulip or geranium (pelargonium) varieties.

There is an enzyme found in almost all sub-genera and sections of the genus *Iris* called F 3', 5' H. The name describes the function of the enzyme, not its makeup.

What it means is that it is an F (for flavonoid) enzyme, as all these pigments belong to the flavone family. The 3' and 5' mean that the enzyme does something to the B-ring 3' and 5' connecting points on the basic molecule. Then the H means "hydroxylase," describing the enzyme's work as being to take off the plain hydrogen and to attach a hydroxyl (-OH) group in its place, changing the first generation descendant of naringenin to the ancestral molecule leading to delphinidin, which has the -OH on all three of the B-ring 3', 4' and 5' loci.

Back in the 1950's and 1960's, Dr. L. F. Randolph indicated that the mutations dropping those two -OH radicals at 3' and 5' from the anthocyanin molecule were possible, as mutations dropping in complexity are a lot more likely to occur in nature than those that add them; but Dr. Randolph lamented that we might wait forever for this to happen, and probably wouldn't recognize it when it did. Initially it would occur on only one chromosome, not two, as in diploids, or one of four as in our modern tetraploids. Randolph assumed the -OH radicals would have to be eliminated one by one. As it turns out, both the hydroxyls are the work of one enzyme alone and can be eliminated at one blow.

There is now a way to do what Randolph envisioned. We now know how those -OH radicals got attached in the first place. The enzyme is known and has a tag, or name of sorts, based on what it is, where it does what it does, and what it does at those locations. It is the F 3',5' H enzyme mentioned above.

The enzyme has a known genetic sequence in the DNA segment responsible. It is fairly long, one of the examples published citing some 1755 base-pairs (A-T or G-C for example) on the staircase structure

of DNA in which it occurs.

The tools do exist for locating the sequence and snipping it out, then determining the sequence of base-pairs, and they are, incidentally, already patented. So are several sequences involved in synthesis of the F 3',5'H enzyme published in the patent.

This enzyme is found in many different, very distantly related genera such as *Viola* (pansies), *Iris*, *Delphinium* and hundreds more, and is nearly identical in all of them with congruences on the order of 94% in the DNA sequences.

The function of this enzyme, described above, shifts the synthesis of the anthocyanin development from that leading to the brilliant reds of pelargonidins to the mauve-violets of the delphinidins. These look blue in iris and delphiniums because of several sugars, co-pigments, pH and metal ions cooperating with the basic pigment to render it blue in appearance rather than mauve.

The process of the chemistry and physics involved appears to be rather complex. Anthocyanins in general are very sensitive to changes in pH and vary in color between red and blue depending not only on the chemical structure, but on the acidity of the cell-solution as well. The cell solution pH is only one of the several significant sources of variation in hue.

As mentioned elsewhere, the attempts to make roses "blue" hasn't been very successful. The introduction of F 3',5' H into roses, petunias and carnations has been done and has resulted in a variety of previously unseen hues and tones, but not yet in the desired blue.

The co-pigments and pH are those that work with red anthocyanins, making them more red or more intense, but do not have the bluing effect we find in irises or larkspur with the mauve-violet delphinidin appearing nearly blue.

To introduce the needed co-pigments and to block the existing ones is a monumentally complex undertaking, not to be done easily or lightly. Then, the pH problem still remains. We may not live long enough to see the "blue rose," but we'll see some unusual colors along the way, that is certain.

Already, two of the carnation trans-gene products are named and introduced, and now growing in greenhouses for cut flowers. We'll see mauve-rose carnations of a startlingly different color from the usual red showing up at the flower shops and cut flower sections of our local supermarkets any time now. What a delightful addition to our array of flowers from which to make arrestingly different corsages and bouquets!

Now, to turn this around to what is required in making a red iris, the enterprise can use this same general approach in manipulating the

synthesis of anthocyanins.

The patent suggests the enzyme F 3',5' H could be blocked with an *antisense* version of the messenger RNA formed from reading the DNA sequence. Just how to make an antisense mRNA is not, however, suggested.

What the antisense means is that instead of the base sequence of the mRNA for F 3', 5'H, one is needed that has the complementary bases, the matching but opposite set of the base pair sequence (T instead of A, G instead of C, for instance). What is suggested in the patent is that the antisense version would pair with and block the normal mRNA, preventing the attachment of the hydroxyls to 3' and 5' positions on the anthocyanin basic building block, and allowing the sequence to proceed to pelargonidins, not delphinidins.

All of the mRNA would have to be blocked to get a truly red pigment. Even if two, if not all four, of our tetraploid chromosomes had the antisense version, of the enzyme, and all the F 3',5' H enzyme blocked, would the iris be red?

Perhaps not! I recall somewhere in iris literature a reference to the variety JANE PHILLIPS, which did not even have the violanin pigment, but was blue anyway. It had the co-pigments, which probably gave the color impression even without the basic pigment.

Blocking the F 3',5' H would indeed leave a red pigment being formed; but the co-pigments wouldn't be those that co-operate with red. They would be the normal blue-forming ones. The result might still be violet or mauve.

There is an additional complication. RNA molecules do not use exactly the same bases (A, T, C and G) found in DNA. Three of them are retained, but the fourth, T, is replaced by Uracil in the RNA chain. Uracil does have the same length as T and bonds with A in the same way, even though the bases are not exactly the same. Attempting to pair an antisense mRNA for the F 3',5' H to the normal mRNA ignores this slight difference, even though the electrical and magnetic patterns of the bases are not exactly the same. The points where hydrogen bonds hold the U and A or the T and A together are in the same places and will fit.

RNA, however, does not float around in simple, straight-line chains, or even in neat double-helical patterns like DNA. It forms loops with its single strand, some segments pairing with other parts of the same RNA chain, bending and twisting with dynamic energy. Getting two chains, antisense and complementary to each other, to bond and cancel the work of the normal chain may not be possible.

There is an alternate approach using F 3',5' H that is possible. A

flawed, a faulty version, of the enzyme's ancestral DNA could be constructed by altering the sequence somewhat and re-inserting the result into an iris chromosome. This flawed copy would fail to do the work of the enzyme, allowing the Pelargonidin sequence to continue to red instead of being side-railed over to blue. Getting the defective copy present on at least two, if not on all four of the analogous chromosomes would require one to four generations of crosses of inbreeding the mutant copy-carrying clone, plus a lot of lab time looking for the abnormal sequence and determining which seedlings have it, which do not. This idea is *not* in the patent!

There is another problem with this idea. Recent research suggests that there is a corrective process in cells, where erroneous sequences get edited out, the ancestral, correct, copy reinserted. It may be the apparently silent DNA segments, filling large parts of the chromosomes, lay down the pattern for this housekeeping mechanism. Overcoming this corrective process could be a substantial challenge.

The same problem occurs as in the blue rose all over again, but this time, a non-blue iris. The pigment alone isn't enough. The co-pigments are still present, still working, and judging from JANE PHILLIPS, matter a great deal in forming color.

Once the co-pigment-forming enzymes were found, blocked or eliminated, the red could emerge, just like with the blue rose being blue.

Not in our lifetime! Anyone want to bet on that? Progress is moving so fast right now in this sort of genetic manipulation that the impossible this year is accomplished next year. Blink twice and one is hopelessly left in the dust at the side of the road.

Who fifty years ago would ever have dreamed we could manipulate DNA to the degree we already do?

A red iris? Yes, someday, somehow. Maybe it may come by the intensification of lycopene, one of the two approaches with which the Cooley's/OSU project is working. The trouble is that lycopene alone isn't really red. It is orange-red. The more it is concentrated or intensified, the more obvious the orange becomes.

The alternate strategy mentioned by Rick Ernst in his recent article, "How to Make a Red Iris," involves two versions of the *ccs* gene from two Lily species. The end result of this approach is to produce a pigment in an iris flower that is the one observed in red bell peppers. This does not have the orange-red problem of the lycopene approach and offers the possibility of forming a truly brilliant red color in the finished product.²

Maybe it would come from, as Dr. Don Spoon has suggested, a combination of a small amount of violet with a major amount of

lycopene for a truer color, the combination blending so we see red instead of orange-red.³

Or maybe it could be the result of this third approach – the production of copious amounts of “geranium” pelargonidin true, brilliant reds all by themselves through blocking F 3',5' H enzyme and numerous co-pigments.

It can be done and undoubtedly will be. Just what the result will look like is a question, however, as the blue rose research project has already discovered. The pigment alone isn't enough.

There's more to color than just one pigment.


¹*Reference is made in general to the article and patent: Holton; Timothy A., Cornish; Edwina C., Kovacic; Filippa, & Lester; Diane R., PATN Patent Bibliographic Information , Patent Number: 05349125 : “Genetic sequences encoding a 3',5'-hydroxylase and uses therefor”*

The patent document is long, very complex, and describes examples of several transgenic plants, assaying and describing the amounts of Malvidin, Delphinidin and Cyanidin found in several of the end product plants. The color changes are also described.

Nucleotide sequences for a number of DNA sequences and intermediate resulting materials is also included in footnotes. They range in size up to over 1800 base-pair sequences in the products.

The genus Iris is mentioned a number of times in the patent document.

²*Rick Ernst, “How to Make a Red Iris,” BAIS Vol. LXXXV, No. 3, Series 334, July 2004, p. 56ff.*

³*Dr. Don Spoon, Spectrum Red Irises,” BAIS Vol. LXXXV, No. 4, Series 335, October 2004, p. 65ff. *



This Page, top to bottom:
ANACONDA LOVE (Kasperek)
SKY FIESTA (Magee)
ELMER'S WILD ROSE (Morrison)
KINKAJOU SHREW (Kasperek)





Photos from the Hilton Hotel Garden



This Page, top to bottom:
GAYLE ELLEN (Hedgecock)
OASIS WAR BONNET (Chadwick)
LIEDER (Stahly)

All photos: Char Holte



The Skaggs Garden



Above: END ZONE (IB—Stahly)

Left: WILLAMETTE MIST (Schreiner)

All photos both pages, Aitken



Above: SIMMER (BB—L. Markham)

Right: ON HER TOES (SIB—Schafer/Sacks)

Below: ELFIN SHADOWS (MTB—L. Burton)



The Theissen Garden





The Porch Garden

All photos: B. Sautner





Morris Garden

Left: MTB DEUCE and TB SOLAR FIRE

Lower left: Unidentified amoena

Lower right: CRACKLING CALDERA

All photos: Schueler







Above: Host Him Morris
and Don Delmez

Below: COSMIC DESIGN

All photos: Schueler

*The Garden
of Jim and
Jean Morris*



A Gem of a Convention in the Diamond State

by Rita Gormley, *SJI* Editor, Missouri

The Diamond State Iris Society hosted the 2005 Society for Japanese Irises Convention in Dover, Delaware, on June 16-18, and what a perfect combination of weather, plants, people and activities it was! Although the spring before the convention was unseasonably cool, in early June Mother Nature smiled with a blast of summer heat causing the hundreds of Japanese Iris, as well as Siberians and Species-X, to unfold just at the right time. In addition to the latest and best of *I. ensata*, guests included Louisiana irises, Siberians, species and exciting interspecies involving *I. ensata*. Fortunately, on the day before the convention, a cold front brought cooler temperatures and pleasant days for touring the gardens.

The convention was more than garden tours. It was a chance to meet and greet other people who know and love Japanese irises. In addition to judges' training, there was an AIS flower show and sessions on hybridizing, cultivation, showing and arranging. To keep the Japanese spirit, there also was an Ikebana exhibit. The poster sessions were a splendid opportunity to view and talk about new innovations in an informal setting, on such diverse topics as "What Color Is It?", "From Seed To Bloom in 17 Months", "Operation Deep Freeze", AIS Membership, and the *SJI* Review.

Small groups broke out for Judges' Training sessions led by Chad Harris, Don Delmez, Harold Griffie, Carol Warner, Jill Copeland, and Jim Copeland at the Academy House Garden, using the hundreds of seedlings in bloom there for instruction. Master Sogetsu instructor Mariko Ono and Jane King, her assistant, led the Ikebana demonstration and show preparation.

Guest plants for this convention were assigned accession numbers when they were received. When they were planted in the gardens, that number was the only identification, so the gardeners initially tended the plants "blind", not knowing names, seedling numbers, or hybridizer until they bloomed and the plant registrar provided each gardener a list of the



The Corrin Garden

plants with accession number, hybridizer and cultivar information. The convention labels for guest plants were large and included hybridizer, region, cultivar name or seedling number, classification, and most importantly the convention accession number. The master list of guest plants in the



convention handbook was by accession number making the reference quick and easy to use. This innovative method of labeling and convention book layout brought accolades from veteran convention attendees.

“One of my favorite things about the convention was the plant labels and the organization of the convention booklet. The plant labels were large, quite readable, and affixed to tall sturdy holders directly in front of the plants. They contained the name of the iris and hybridizer in nice large print, as well as notations regarding in-region or out-of-region, and introduced iris or seedling so there was no confusion when voting your ballot. This also eliminated the need for ugly flags denoting in-region plants. There was also a notation if the iris was going to be available at the auction. Each iris had an accession number printed in very large type on the corner of its sign, and the plantings were arranged in numerical order



Photo: T. Dillard



so it was very easy to find plants. The spiral bound convention booklet had a numerical listing of the plants with space for making comments. Instead of having space under each garden, I could write all my comments in one place for each

iris. It was easy to compare performance in all of the gardens. A list of where the guest plants were growing was included but not separate lists for each garden. I was so impressed that we are going to use the same numbering system, markers, and booklet design for our Regional meeting in 2007.” [Carol Warner, Draycott Gardens, Upperco, Maryland]

FAVORITES AT THE 2005 SJI CONVENTION:

Favorite Out-of-Region Introduced Iris:

DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (White)

Favorite Out-of-Region Seedling:

Walker T98-66-12

Favorite In-Region Iris:

SIMPLY STATED (Hager)

Top 10 Favorite Guest Irises:

1. Dirigo Pink Milestone (White)
2. Dirigo Red Rocket (White)
3. Little Bow Pink (Delmez)
4. All in White (Delmez)
5. Thoroughbred (McEwen)
6. Bewitching Twilight (Harris)
7. Lake Effect (Bauer/Coble)
8. Tessatura (Iler)
9. Gingham Geisha (Hager)
10. Simply Stated (Hager)

The six Convention gardens ranged in size from large to huge, with “personalities” as diverse as their owners. All the gardens were less than 30

minutes from the hotel, so there was much more garden time than bus time!

The master planting of convention guest irises was on the grounds of **Delaware State University**, just a few blocks from the hotel. The Claude E Phillips Herbarium is a botanical resource center located at DSU, in the U S Washington Extension Building. The Herbarium houses an extensive collection of pressed and dried plant specimens and also functions as an active center for education and research on the world's botanical diversity. In honor of the Japanese Iris Convention, there were displays of (1) "Iridaceae Native to Delmarva", (2) "How to Prepare a Herbarium Specimen" and (3) assorted books on Iridaceae. Few plant lovers get to see such an extensive collection and many people had to be dragged out of there to go to the next garden!

ACADEMY HOUSE GARDEN of Dennis Hager and Tim Johnson was the site of Judges' Training sessions. The Academy was a community school for almost a century, pre-dating public school systems on Delmarva.





GIN-NO-KOTO

Photo: D. Hager

The property was retired from public use by 1920. In addition to the guest gardens, there is a private collection of over 150 Japanese irises and many seedlings, plus substantial hosta, daylily and viburnum collections along with camellias, magnolias, bamboo, epimedium, woodland gingers and hellebores on this two-acre property on the Chester River in the small town of Millington. **THE CORRIN GARDEN** had been a 350-acre grain farm for 30 years, with many changes during this time. Most of the gardens were orchards until about 15 years ago when the Corrins removed the fruit trees and serious gardening began. Joyce's exposure to Japanese Irises came from her sister, Theresa Jewell, about 15 years ago. Joyce says, "The convention garden was my main tall bearded bed, and a total renovation was required to suit the soil for JIs. The results



Photo: C. Bauer



have been well worth the effort. There are two small earth-bottom ponds with large numbers of koi. Connecting the ponds is a naturalized waterway with Louisiana iris and other water plants. A gazebo overlooking the back pond is my favorite spot to sit back and view the gardens.” **THE MALLOZZI GARDEN** covers four acres, and it is immediately evident that a true gardener lives here. Dorothy Mallozzi started gardening on the property even before the house was built. She says, “If someone calls it a flower, I have probably grown it at some time.” At **THE ROOP GARDEN** a rooster sign with flapping wings stands by the mailbox, welcoming the visitor to Roop’s Roost, where June and Luther Roop have lived for 52 years in a home they built on the original Roop Farm of 120 acres. The Roop garden also includes tall bearded, Siberian, Louisiana and species irises plus a large collection of daylilies, peonies, cascading roses, a collection of crape myrtles, and numerous flowering trees. Each year the garden seems to grow. At **THE WOOD GARDEN** of Joan and Charlie Wood, approximately 1200 varieties of all classes of bearded irises, Japanese, Siberians, Louisianas and species with about 600 at their present address where the convention planting is located. Joan, with the help of her family, insisted on putting on her usual “down home picnic” with everything home cooked for 125+ on top of having a guest garden - everyone knows the second most important thing on any iris tour is the food!

The whole convention was a delight to beardless iris lovers, and it whetted everyone’s appetite for the 2008 Japanese Iris Convention in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Many thanks to The Diamond State Iris Society for hosting this spectacular event. 🌸



Photo: Hager

SJI Convention Favorites

Photos clockwise from above: DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE
(White); SJI Best Seedling: Lee Walker, T98-66-12; DIRIGO
PINK MILESTONE (with hybridizer); DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE



Photo: Gornley



Photo: Hager



Photo: Hager



*As
Seen in
Florence,
2005*

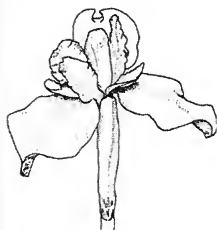


Photos from top to bottom:

Merle Roberts seedling

Cayeux seedling

WHITE-CAPPED WAVES (Ernst)



Another Shower of Iris

2006 Siberian/Species Convention

Portland Oregon - May 28, 2006

Full Registration:

Includes garden tours,
BBQ Rib lunch,
convention booklet,
and Banquet

by March 1st '06

☐ \$89.00

After March 1st '06

☐ \$99.00

Banquet Only:

☐ \$35.00

Registration Limit

It is unfortunate that we cannot open this to everyone who might wish to go, but we do have a limit on the number of registrants that can be accommodated in these two wonderful gardens. That limit is 3 buses per garden so it will be slightly over 300 people that can go on this exceptional tour, so PLEASE get your registrations in early if you wish to be part of this tour.

Special Needs: If you have special dietary requirements, please be sure to note them at time of registration as we will not be responsible if it is not noted.

Name _____

Spouse or second person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Send To:

Keith McNames, Registrar
Siberian/Species Convention
7711 Pries Drive N.E.
Salem, OR 97303-7842

United States Postal Service

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PS Form 3526, October 1999

(See Instructions on Reverse)

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- If the publication has periodic authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
- In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

Treasurer's Report

For the Year Ended September 30, 2005

Compiled by Jill Bonino

(condensed from original Financial Reports prepared by Jay Hudson)

ASSETS AND RESTRICTED/UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Unrestricted Cash, Money Markets, and Certificates of Deposit	\$117,890
Restricted Life Membership Investments	\$131,989
Total Assets	\$249,879
Restricted Funds:	
Insurance Fund	\$1,600
Claire Barr Library Endowment	\$1,695
Electronic Services Fund	\$10,740
Publication Fund	\$150
Cosgrove Memorial Fund	\$7,877
Library Fund	\$1,003
Classroom Iris Project (CIP) Fund	\$2,961
Life Membership Fund	\$130,000
Total Restricted Funds	\$156,026
Total Unrestricted Funds	\$93,853
Total Restricted and Unrestricted Funds	\$249,879

INCOME AND EXPENSES (Both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds)

Income


Membership Dues	\$84,176
Storefront Sales	\$19,596
Bulletin (Ad Sales)	\$13,492
Committees	\$11,918
Interest on Bank Accounts & Investments	\$6,906
Registrations	\$6,360
Insurance Premium refund	\$5,662*
Silent Auction	\$5,309
Unrestricted Donations	\$2,395
Total Income	\$155,814

Expenses

Bulletin	\$92,293
Membership Secretary	\$20,777
Committee Expenses	\$19,027
Storefront	\$9,003
Registrar	\$6,000
Insurance	\$2,650*
Secretary	\$1,717
Treasurer	\$674
Professional Fees	\$340
Form 990T Tax	\$185
Misc Bank Fees & Service Charges	\$213
Silent Auction	\$87
Recording Secretary	\$26
Total Expenses	\$152,992

Excess of Income over Expenses **\$2,822**

*The AIS received a one-time only refund on its 2004-2005 insurance premium when it cancelled the \$3,000,000 umbrella coverage. This will not recur. The small amount of insurance expense shown is for the two month's of premium paid through September 30, 2005 on the 2005-2006 policy. With the 2005-2006 policy, the AIS is able to pay the premium monthly instead of annually, which significantly reduced expenses booked in this fiscal year. Total annual insurance premiums budgeted for the 2005-2006 year are \$21,600.

Please direct any questions to Jill Bonino at <AISsecjill@earthlink.net> 



The Entrance Sign of the Iris Garden in Florence, letters made of iris mosaics.

Photo: Bauer



Approved AIS Judges for 2006

compiled by Judy Keisling, Judges' Training Chair

REGION 1

G Bruce Bennett
 G Ruth Bennett
 AM Lucy G. Burton
 AM John H. Burton II
 G Hao Chang
 G Phillip W. Cook
 G Paul J. Dostie
 AM Chandler Fulton
 AM Elaine Fulton
 G Ellen M. Gallagher
 G Ada Godfrey
 G William Godfrey
 RM Connie M. Hall
 AM Dr. Warren C. Hazelton
 AM Mrs. Warren C. Hazelton
 AM Lynn F. Markham
 G Stephanie A. Markham
 RM Mrs. F. J. McAliee
 RM Marilyn R. Noyes
 Mollicone
 AM Mrs. Russell B. Moors
 AM Russell B. Moors
 G David Nitka
 E William H. Peck
 E Mrs. Maurice B. Pope, Jr.
 G Janet Sacks
 AM Robert H. Sawyer
 G Martin Schafer
 G David Schmieder
 E Mrs. David Schmieder
 RM Marian H. Schmuhl
 RM Robert Sobek
 AM Richard Sparling
 RM Shirley A. Varmette
 E Kenneth M. Waite
 RM James R. Welch
 AM Deborah Wheeler
 AM John W. White
 AM Rebecca Wong
 AM Peter J. Young
 G Michael Zuraw

REGION 2

AM David Baehre
 G Joanne Bassett
 A Sylvia Borglum
 RM James G. Burke
 RM Ruth C. Burke
 A John Colley
 G Clayton Crandall
 G Diane Crandall
 AM Maria Gerbracht
 RM James Gristwood
 AM Kathleen Guest-Shadrack
 A Nancy Haley
 RM Jane I. Hall
 G John Heimke
 G Donna James
 G Ronald James
 G Robert A. Keup
 G Eugene Koschara
 G Mildred Koschara
 A Keup Loretta A.
 G Don Lowry
 G Donna J. Lowry
 A Dan Maier
 A Joanne Maier
 G Ella Murphy
 G Jerry Murphy
 A Floyd Reitzel
 AM Wendy K. Roller
 A Donald Salhoff
 A Patricia Salhoff
 A Vaughn Sayles
 AM Dr. Carolyn Schaffner
 AM Helen B. Schueler
 G Mary Jane Shanley
 G Jamie Smith
 A Janette Smith
 A Frank Sorbello
 G Dorothy Stiefel
 G Judith Tucholski
 G Peter J. Weixlmann

REGION 3

G Ruth Barker
 RM Walter E. Betzold
 A Jane Bury
 A Peter Bury
 A Harold Clemens
 G Charles Conklin
 G Joyce Corrin
 RM George W. Gerhardt
 AM Harold L. Griffie
 G R. Dennis Hager
 G Edmund Jay Holcomb
 E Sterling U. Innerst
 AM Theresa Jewell
 AM Mrs. R. P. Kegerise
 AM Jason A. Leader
 AM Patricia A. Leader
 G Vincent Lewonski
 RM Elwood Maltman
 AM Mrs. Arthur F. Martin
 G Robert M. McFarland
 RM Mrs. Stephan Molchan
 G Joan Roberts
 G Ken Roberts
 RM June Roop
 AM Ronald J. Thomon
 RM Elizabeth E. Unruh

REGION 4

G Barbara Alexander
 G David W. Bowen
 G Pat Bowen
 G Randell Bowen
 G Sandra S. Bryan
 G Libby A. Cross
 G Glenna de Quoy
 E E. Roy Epperson
 E Mrs. Frank H. J. Figge
 RM Mrs. Glenn Grigg, Jr.
 G Ruth Brown Holbrook
 G L. Bruce Hornstein
 RM Mrs. Paul D. Kabler
 RM Nancy Karriker

G Daniel Laing
 G Kristen Laing
 G Linda Laing
 G Michael Lockatell
 AM Anne Lowe
 AM Mike Lowe
 E Clarence E. Mahan
 G Bill Mull
 RM Dr. Joseph B. Parker, Jr.
 G Bea Rogers
 G Donald W. Rude
 G Merrick E. Shawe
 G William C. Smoot
 G Donald M. Spoon
 G Virginia Spoon
 AM Katharine M. Steele
 G Frances Thrash
 G David L. Traylor
 RM Mrs. James H. Trent
 RM Ruth E. Walker
 E Carol Warner
 RM Dennis A. Wilkie
 G Carrie Winter
 G Joan R. Wood

REGION 5

G Mary T. Bolton
 G Brenda P. Briley
 G R. Lee Byous
 G Ken Duke
 G Marshall L. Goforth
 AM Carolyn R. Hawkins
 RM Sara T. Hood
 RM Jean House
 G Maggie Johnson
 RM Mrs. Grady Kennedy
 G Sue Kilgore
 AM Mrs. A. J. (Nell) Kirby
 G Doris L. Lewallen
 E Rev. E. L. Lineberger
 G James B. McRae
 AM Michael Moller
 RM Mrs. Edward L. Paquet
 G Steve Smart
 AM Mrs. Wayne C. Smith, Jr.
 AM Wayne C. Smith, Jr.
 AM Mrs. Robert L. Terpening
 AM Robert L. Terpening
 G Joyce Thrift
 RM Harry Turner

G Janet Watson
 AM Joe Scott Watson
 A Jeanette White
 AM Fredericka R. Wilson
 G Donna Wolford
 G Harry Wolford
 AM Earnest Yearwood

REGION 6

AM Robert A. Bauer
 G Dr. Charles A. Bunnell
 AM Ann A. Cline
 AM John A. Coble
 RM Mrs. Harold E. Cooper
 AM James A. Copeland
 AM Jill Copeland
 RM Doris M. Dehaan
 G Alice Eich
 G Rolla L. Eich
 G Phyllis Ann Epperson
 RM Dr. James J. Foreman
 G Sheila F. Gardner
 G Dorothy Hartman
 G Lana Higgins
 E Emma Hobbs
 G Frances G. Holecek
 G Rose J. Holecek
 AM R. M. Hollingworth
 AM Rae J. Johnson
 RM Virginia Maynard
 AM Anna Mae Miller
 E Lynda Miller
 AM Roger Miller
 AM David C. Mohr
 AM Kathy J. Moore
 AM Nona Moore
 AM Carol Morgan
 RM Marilyn N.O. Nelson
 G Jody Nolin
 RM Jack E. Norrick
 G Charles Rumbaugh
 G James R. Ryan, Jr.
 RM Mrs. Harold Slessman
 G Donald R. Sorenson
 E Dr. Harold L. Stahly
 RM Marjorie Starkey
 AM Fred L. Taylor
 RM Eugene D. Tremmel
 RM Joan H. Vervilst
 G Cliff Wilde

A Janet L. Wilke
 A Diana Williams
 E Anthony Willott
 E Mrs. Anthony Willott
 AM Doris Winton
 G Joyce Wozniak

REGION 7

G Mrs. Marie Towles Atkins
 AM Sue Ann Barnes
 AM James M. Bingham
 AM Eleanor M. Boyson
 AM Larry R. Browning
 AM Linda Browning
 AM Betty Burch
 AM Carol Burch
 AM James G. Burch
 G Badger H. Carney
 G Carol Ann Carney
 E Hilda Crick
 A Susan Egbert
 AM James L. Ennenga
 RM Dr. Frank B. Galyon
 G Gwen Godwin
 G Darnell Hester
 RM Lois Hill
 AM Mrs. Arvid Honkanen
 G Judith G. Hunt
 G M. Dean Hunt
 RM Evelyn G. Irwin
 G Leslie D. Jobe'
 G Wayne Jobe'
 RM Glenna Johnson
 AM Mrs. Donald R. King
 G Caroline S. Nave
 AM Jerry Phillips
 AM Mrs. Jerry Phillips
 A Burk Renner
 AM June F. Richards
 G Deborah J. Harris Royal
 G Earnest L. Royal
 AM Gary D. Sides
 A Elizabeth Stone
 G Steven P. Stone
 G Robert L. Strohman
 AM Willa Swack
 G Hugh Thurman
 G Mary Thurman
 A James Van Hook
 A John P. Van Hook

A Lessie Van Hook
 RM Maynard D. Van Horn
 RM Mrs. Maynard D. Van Horn
 A Marilyn Vernon
 RM William W. Vines
 RM Mrs. W. C. Wilder
 G Betty Wilkerson
 E Phillip A. Williams
 G James H. Wilson
 G Janet L. Wilson
 A Caroline Winters
 A Chuck Winters

REGION 8

RM Melvin Bausch
 RM Mrs. Melvin Bausch
 E Joan Cooper
 AM W. E. Doehne
 G William C. Dougherty
 RM Mrs. Leroy Duvall
 AM M. Lynne Fell
 RM Mrs. DuWayne Giefer
 RM Patrick R. Hemmer
 RM Mrs. David Hempel
 G Charlotte Holte
 RM Edwin W. Kelsey
 RM Dr. Donald Koza
 A Barbara Sautner
 A John Sautner
 RM Mildred Stover
 AM Jack Worel

REGION 9

RM Donovan Albers
 G Norma Bennett
 AM Margaret G. Bensen
 G John L. Bilski
 AM Mrs. Orville Dickhaut
 AM Orville Dickhaut
 G Richard C. Funk
 G Patrick Hayden
 AM Cathy Simon
 Hendrickson
 G Jeanette Hensley
 G Ann Henson
 G Ernie Henson
 RM Mrs. Karl F. Jensen
 G Margaret J. Kelly
 G Cynthia Kermode
 AM Susan E. Leeper

AM Mrs. Roland J. Meyer
 G Larry Miller
 G Mrs. Larry Miller
 G Nancy E. Pocklington
 AM George S. Poole
 AM C.J. Simon
 AM Mrs. C. J. Simon
 AM Leslie J. Smith
 A Anita Stephens
 G Mark Timko
 AM Nancy Simon Timko
 E D. Steve Varner
 AM Jerry Wilhoit
 AM Melody Wilhoit

REGION 10

RM Mrs. C. W. Arny, Jr.
 AM Dorman Haymon
 A Dr. Bernard H. McSparrin
 G Joe Musacchia
 AM Rusty Ostheimer
 AM Mrs. Hubert Rena
 G Charles J. Walkowiak

REGION 11

G Jayme Adams
 AM Eileen Allison
 AM Ken Baier
 AM Rose Mary Baier
 G Claudia H. Brown
 RM Donald Chadd
 G Gary W. Clark
 G Carol L. Coleman
 G Louisa Cone
 G Cindy Davis
 G Irene DeRose
 G Janet G. DeRousse
 G Jeanette Graham
 AM Mrs. R. W. Gray
 G Erling Gustafson
 RM Robert L. Jensen
 A Diane LuKesh
 G Roger Muir
 A James Sadler
 AM Alverta Symes
 A Sharon Touchstone
 G Angelique Violette
 A Lynn Weger

REGION 12

RM D.C. Anderson

AM Tony Ballard
 G Susan Boyce
 G Charlotte Brennard
 G Joseph A. Brown
 RM Charlotte T. Easter
 A Lynn Hess
 G B. Brad Kasperek
 G Kathie Kasperek
 G Joan R. McFadden
 G Thomas J. Miller
 AM Suzanne Parry
 AM Cathy Hagen Reed
 G Leon Robertson
 RM Mrs. Merlin Tams
 AM DeRay Taylor
 RM Keith H. Wagstaff
 AM Jeffrey L. Walters
 G L. Val Wilson

REGION 13

AM Ellen Abrego
 AM Thomas Abrego
 RM Patricia Adams
 E Barbara Aitken
 E Terry Aitken
 G Louise Allison
 G Phyllis M. Barnett
 AM Paul W. Black
 G Dwayne A. Booth
 G Carole Breedlove
 AM Dr. Alan D. Brooks
 AM James R. Browne
 G Caroline Burke
 G Rita E. Butler
 G Deborah A. Cole
 RM Mrs. Joe Del Judge
 AM Joanne Mentz Derr
 RM F. Duncan Eader
 G Arnold W. Ferguson
 G Bruce Filardi
 AM Frank J. Foster
 AM Debra Gillespie
 RM Paul Harms
 G Chad Harris
 AM Fran Hawk
 G Tom Johnson
 E Bennett C. Jones
 E Keith Keppel
 G Carla Lankow
 AM George F. Lankow

AM John W. Ludi
 G Keith McNames
 RM Duane Meek
 RM Joyce Meek
 G Beverly Petrak
 G Tracy Plotner
 G William E. Plotner
 G Nancy Price
 E Lorena M. Reid
 AM Gerald L. Richardson
 AM Bill Rinehart
 RM Jayne Ritchie
 AM David Schreiner
 AM Ray Schreiner
 AM Doris E. Shinn
 AM David Silverberg
 AM Marky D. Smith
 A Denise Stewart
 RM Phyllis Trout
 G Patti Wenham
 G Andrew Wheeler
 E Jean G. Witt
 AM Debby Zook

REGION 14

G James Begley
 G Art Bern
 G Ross Bevier
 G Helen Bliven
 AM Carl H. Boswell
 AM Mrs. Carl H. Boswell
 G Kathy Braaten
 RM Bob Brooks
 G Anna Cadd
 G David Cadd
 AM Mrs. Mark Condo
 G Bruce R. G. Connell
 E Glenn F. Corlew
 G Betty A. Coyle
 G Christine Dickinson
 E Sidney P. DuBose
 G Vicki K. Dudley
 G Mrs. William H. Fink
 G William H. Fink
 A Mary Lee Fortner
 E Joseph J. Ghio
 RM Gigi Hall
 RM Marilyn Holloway
 AM Berkley Hunt
 AM Barry Ivens

G John I. Jones
 AM Frederick J. Kerr
 RM Virginia Keyser
 AM Richard Lauer
 RM Evelyn Lemire
 AM Kitty Loberg
 G Marc Loberg
 G Sandra Mann
 RM Maryann Manning
 AM Ed Matheny, III
 RM Hal Mattos
 G Joanne McGrew
 E Mrs. William Messick
 AM Alleah B. Middling
 G Amelia Murray
 RM Jean Near
 RM Roger R. Nelson
 G Lorraine Nicholson
 G Mrs. John D. O'Brien
 RM Capt. M.C. Osborne
 AM Fred C. Parvin
 G John M. Pesek III
 AM Jeanne Clay Plank
 G Joanne Prass-Jones
 G Joyce Ragle
 AM Lucile Ray
 RM Alan D. Robbins
 G Steven Rocha
 RM Robert O. Sorensen
 AM George H. Sutton
 AM Margaret Sutton
 G Michael Sutton
 AM Richard Tasco
 RM Mrs. Sven I. Thoolen
 G Hiromi Uyeda
 G Dorlene Waite
 G Josie Ward
 E Dr. John H. Weiler
 AM Barbara Whitely
 AM James Whitely
 G Lynn Williams
 RM Bryce Williamson
 G Ronald Wolberg
 RM Vernon Wood
 G Mary Ann Worth

REGION 15

AM Irene Benton
 G Joyce Bertram
 A Jill Bonino

A Carole Buchhelm
 G Peggy Carpenter
 RM Thelma H. Carrington
 RM Hazel E. Carson
 RM Janice Chesnik
 G Kathy Chilton
 RM Luella Danielson
 A Steve Davis
 G Cheryl Deaton
 RM Dolores Denney
 A Francelle Edwards
 G Eileen Fiumara
 RM Mrs. Harry B. Frey
 G Derry Gerald
 G Jim Giles
 RM Doris K. Hale
 A W. D. Herman-Walker
 RM Mrs. Herbert C. Holk
 AM Michael O. Howard
 AM James H. Jones
 AM Ardi Kary
 G Marjorie Larson
 G Perri Larson
 AM Lynn McIlwain
 RM Judith Mogil
 AM Edward Murray
 A Kristen Nelson
 AM Joella R. Olson
 G Patrick Orr
 E Mrs. Edward Owen
 G Jane C. Parks
 G Marilyn Pecoraro
 G Avery Poling
 G Joyce Poling
 AM James Puckett
 G John H. Reinschmidt
 AM D. L. Shepard
 AM Mrs. D. L. Shepard
 G Gerald C. Snyder
 G Hilward Stenson
 G Winona Stevenson
 G Jane G. Troutman
 RM George W. Warner, Jr.
 AM Jack Weber
 RM Verona Wiekhorst
 RM Warren Wiekhorst
 AM John Wight

REGION 16

G Chuck Chapman

A Sylvia Chapman
 A Chris Hollinshead
 A Eleanor Hutchison
 A Emily Ives
 G Raymond Ives
 RM Verna Laurin
 A Randy Manning
 G Maureen Mark
 RM Daniel P. McMillen
 AM Gloria McMillen
 RM James McMillen
 G Ken Viner

REGION 17

G E. A. Addington
 G Alene Arnold
 G Dr. L. M. Begley
 A Dawn K. Boyer
 G Dana Brown
 G Vernon Brown
 G Pat Byrne
 E Marie Caillet
 AM Billie G. Corbell
 RM Mrs. Dee Davis
 G Rosemary English
 G Connie Ford
 RM Opal Gray
 AM Gordon Green
 RM Hazel M. Haik
 G Nona Hoecker
 AM Mrs. Charles A. Howard
 AM Jim Keefe
 AM Mrs. Vernon H. Keese
 G Helen Kinnamon
 G David Lamb
 AM Peggy Lamb
 G Jim Landers
 RM Mary Jane McCreary
 AM Bonnie Nichols
 RM William K. Patton
 G Dell S. Perry
 G Mrs. John Phillips
 RM Sam Reece
 AM Patsy L. Rosen
 AM Keith A. Smith
 AM Debra Strauss
 AM Mary Wilber
 RM Edith Wolford

REGION 18

AM Mrs. L. E. Anderson

G Patricia Ardisonne
 RM Mrs. August Bellagamba
 AM Harry J. Boyd
 RM Mrs. Harry J. Boyd
 RM Mrs. James Lee Chism
 G Jon Marc Cliburn
 AM Donald Delmez
 A Joseph DeVous
 A Karen M. DeVous
 G Judy Eckhoff
 G Barbara Fouts
 G Rita Gormley
 G Nichole Grzeskowiak

AM Mike Hargrove
 AM Jim Hedgecock
 AM Calvin H. Helsley
 G Doris Hessee
 G Virginia Hill
 G Jerry Hoke
 G Nyla Hughes
 RM Vince Italian
 AM Audrey Judy
 AM Dan C. Judy
 G Judy Keisling
 AM Joan Kellar
 RM Mrs. Edwin W. Knight
 G Doris J. Loveland
 AM Betty Langston Macon
 G Carol D. Moore
 G Kevin J. Morley
 E James W. Morris
 E Mrs. James W. Morris
 G James Murrain
 G Carolyn Needham
 G Barbara Nicodemus
 E O. D. Niswonger

AM Robert Pries
 AM Riley Probst
 RM James Rasmussen
 RM Helen E. Reynolds
 RM Elvan E. Roderick
 RM Mrs. Elvan E. Roderick
 G Kendal Rohr
 G Cindy Rust
 G Stephanie Rust
 G Barbara Schuette
 RM Mrs. Stephen Stevens
 AM Stephen Stevens
 A Len Suchy
 AM Eric Tankesley-Clarke

AM Robert Tankesley-Clarke
 G Mike Theissen
 G Shirley Trio
 G Dennis VanLanduyt
 G James Waddick
 G Clancy Walz
 G Adrian Wills
 G Naida Wills
 G James Winzer
 G Laurie Winzer
 AM Annabelle Wiseman

REGION 19

AM Raymond Blicharz
 G Catherine Button
 G Margaret Griner
 G Martha Ann Griner
 A Jean Mahoney
 RM Dr. Norman H. Noe
 RM C. B. Reeves, Jr.
 RM Mrs. C. B. Reeves, Jr.
 A Gary Slagle II
 AM Nancy Szmuriga
 G Mary R. Townsend

REGION 20

G Martha Artzberger
 G Lowell Baumunk III
 G Stephen Blecher
 AM Duane W. Daily
 AM Kayellen R. Daily
 RM Linda M. Doty-Nystrom
 G Carol Eacker
 G Russell Eacker
 A Elsie Funk
 A Sally Funk
 E Catherine Long Gates
 AM Dennis B. Gates
 RM Mrs. Morris James
 RM Carl Jorgensen
 RM Roy G. Krug
 G Lynda D. Love
 AM Thomas L. Magee
 RM Suzanne McCarthy
 G Ellen McIntosh
 AM David G. Miller
 AM Patricia Morgan
 RM Mrs. Dwane Quinn
 AM Betty Roberts
 A Grace Syme
 A Robert Van Liere

REGION 21

RM Mickey S. Anson
 RM Aredeth J. Bailey
 RM Marian Burleigh
 G Lee Charlton
 G Paula Charlton
 RM C. T. Claussen
 RM Signey Claussen
 E Allan G. Ensminger
 RM Mary Ferguson
 RM Donna Fox
 RM Vincent Fox
 RM Gene Gaddie
 AM Charles C. Hemmer
 AM Michael C. Hemmer
 AM Mrs. Charles C. Hemmer
 RM Lester Hildenbrandt
 RM Mrs. Leon Hockett
 AM Marjorie A. Jansen
 G Arnold Koekkoek
 G Christa Kohout
 AM Richard Kohout
 AM Carolyn D. Lingenfelter
 AM Roger P. Mazur
 AM LeRoy Meininger
 G Leland H. Nelson
 G Neal E. Pohlman
 AM Calvin H. Reuter
 RM Mrs. Kempton Settle
 A Robin Shadlow
 AM Tim Stanek
 RM Mrs. Robert D. Steele
 G Jean M. Sturtevant
 G Connie Vanecek
 G Dorothy Ver Hey
 G Gary E. White
 G Henry Wulf
 AM Opal Wulf

REGION 22

G Ann D. Barrows
 G Linda Bell
 A Michael Blake
 G James B. Bledsoe
 G Doris Boyles
 G Louise Carson
 A Gregory D. Cary
 G Peggy J. Chumley
 G Maureen Corder
 AM C. A. Cromwell
 AM Mrs. C. Wayne Drumm

AM Perry Dyer
 RM Mrs. Howard Estes
 G M. D. Faith
 G Ramona French
 G Carol Goldsberry
 AM Paul W. Gossett
 G June P. Hardy
 G Elsie Harrow
 RM Rilla M. Hickerson
 G Greer Holland
 G Mary Ann Holman
 AM La Vera Johnson
 AM Helen Jones
 G Nancy Kowalchyk
 G Norbert Kowalchyk
 AM Betty Lou McMartin
 G E. W. McVicker
 G Peggy Meekins
 RM Leonard J. Michel
 A Jo Ann Minter
 RM Richard E. Morgan
 E Ronald Mullin
 G Bettie M. Nash
 E Perry L. Parrish
 G Lyle Reininger
 G Randy Renner
 AM James W. Russell
 AM Marthella Shoemaker
 AM Aline Smith
 RM Susie Smith
 A Monte Stahl
 RM L. D. Stayer
 RM Mrs. L. D. Stayer
 AM Mrs. Philip Stonecipher
 AM Philip Stonecipher
 G Hugh Stout
 G Pat Tanton
 G Robert Treadway
 G Mary P. Watson
 G Beatrice A. Williams
 AM Lillian C. Williams
 G Joshua Winzer

REGION 23

G Karen Bergamo
 AM Mrs. Milton J. Clauser
 G Ann Colwell
 G Helen K. Crotty
 G Henry J. Day
 AM Phil Doonan
 RM Sara Doonan

G Alverton Elliott
 G Patricia J. Feather
 G Ken Fladager
 G Clifton Frosch
 AM Doug Goodnight
 G Dr. Scott Jordan
 G Reita Jordan
 G Pam Lackey
 RM Mrs. Douglas Latimer
 G Alma S. Maxwell
 G Peter R. McGrath
 G Pegi Naranjo
 AM Maxine Perkins
 G Patricia Randall
 G James Reilly
 G Cindy H. Rivera
 AM Mrs. Howard Shockey
 G Mrs. Pei-Lin Tien
 AM Mrs. Walter C. White


REGION 24

AM Sue Anderson
 RM Margaret Connally
 AM Evelyn Davenport
 AM Jane C. Desmond
 RM T. A. Gilliam
 G Scott W. Grant
 AM Clara B. Henderson
 RM J. W. Kuykendall, Jr.
 RM Mrs. J. W. Kuykendall, Jr.
 AM Joe M. Langdon
 AM Mrs. Joe M. Langdon
 AM Walter A. Moores
 AM Edith Mitchell Nevels
 G Carrie Rice
 AM Donald R. Saxton
 AM Mrs. Donald R. Saxton
 RM Sarah Scruggs
 E Mrs. R. P. VanValkenburgh

OVERSEAS

G Barry Blyth
 AM Graeme Grosvenor
 G Bernard Pryor
 G Heather Pryor
 G John C. Taylor
 G Koen Engelen
 G Willy Hubblau
 G C. E. C. Bartlett
 G John C. Russell

G	Jérôme Boulon	G	Anne Barbetti	RM	Prof. Gian Luigi Sani
RM	Jean Cayeux	G	Augusto Bianco	G	Doralisa Ravenni Santi
G	Richard Cayeux	E	Margaret Cameron Longo	AM	Akira Horinaka
G	Gisela Dathe	G	Maria Carla Monaco	G	Hiroshi Shimizu
G	Tomas Tamberg	G	Valeria Pallesi Romoli		
G	Rainer Zeh	G	Valeria Roselli		

Editor's Note: There has been some discussion among Board Members of the AIS, considering the possibility of not printing the list of judges in the AIS Bulletin in the future, and posting it instead on the AIS website. I would very much like to hear from members (both judges and non-judges) on what you feel about this proposal. The Board is making every effort to provide us with more space for interesting articles and to remove as much as possible of AIS "business" from the Bulletin's pages. Please let me know if you feel that we should continue to print the list each year, or whether posting on the website would meet with approval. Drop me a line via e-mail or post; please don't just mention this to me when you happen to see me, because – to be honest – I won't remember! Thank you, Bruce Filardi 

A Nice letter from one of our members

There's a story for children about a little red hen who has a grain of wheat that she plants, waters, weeds, nurtures and then harvests. The gist of the story is that she does everything, and then at the end of the story, the fox, the mouse, etc., have to watch as she enjoys the fruits of her labors, for they weren't there to help with the work of nurturing the grain along the way. Another version of the story has her sharing the bounty with them all. As a recipient of many lovely iris and other plants and goodies drawn for during our meetings, it sometimes feels that our growers are the little red hens and we are the fortunate recipients from the kinder version of the story. I know I can say on behalf of us all, that we sincerely appreciate all the work that goes into hybridizing, growing, watering, weeding, fertilizing, digging, packing, and labeling these gracious gifts that you bring to us over the course of the year. You enliven our gardens with plants that we might not otherwise be able to enjoy. Thank you!

—Linda Stirling

Exhibition Committee Report for 2005

by E. Roy Epperson, Exhibitions Chair

For the year 2005, 176 Show Schedules were evaluated/approved. Of these, 173 were spring shows and 3 were fall shows. 2 spring shows were cancelled. There was at least one show scheduled in each Region. Region 22 (Arkansas and Oklahoma) mounted the most shows - nineteen!

Sixteen shows earned Youth Silver and Bronze Medals, 114 shows had Adult Artistic Divisions and awarded the Best Design of Show Certificate/Rosette, 29 shows awarded Youth Best Design of Show Certificates/Rosettes.

Tall bearded irises were chosen Best Specimen at 114 shows, LA (9), SDB (8), IB (7), JI (6), and SIB (5). All other iris types had fewer than 5 as Best Specimen of Show.

By action of the AIS Board of Directors, the Nelson Award to honor the iris which has most often been selected Best Specimen of the Show in an AIS accredited show will not be awarded for 2005 as five cultivars were each voted Best Specimen of Show in two shows resulting in a 5-way tie for the Nelson Award. (Three spring shows still have not been reported.) No cultivar was selected Best Specimen more than two times.

AIS SHOWS WINNERS OF 2005

Place of Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Specimen	Exhibitor
Region 1				
Auburn, ME	Jean & Russ Moors	Paul Dostie	ZANY (TB)	Paul Dostie
Shelburne Falls, MA	Andrew Wheeler	Steven Smith	KATY MENDEZ (JI)	Andrew Wheeler
South Paris, ME	Ed & Pat Norton	Jean & Russ Moors	MARKSMAN (SDB)	Warren & Marie Hazelton
Waltham, MA	Schafer/Sacks	Stephanie Markham	RHONDA FLEMING (TB)	Stephanie Markham
Region 2				
Buffalo, NY	Judy Tucholski	Floyd Reitzel	COASTAL MIST (TB)	Floyd Reitzel
Colonie, NY	Robert Keup	Frank Sorbello	VIBRANT (TB)	Robert Keup
Johnson City, NY	Dorothy Stiefel	John Colley	<i>I. pseudacorus</i> (SPEC)	John Colley
Poughkeepsie, NY	Robert Keup	Jerry & Ella Murphy	OBLIGATO (IB)	Robert Keup
Pulaski, NY	Robert Keup	Jaime Smith	W. J. FRYER (TB)	Robert Keup
West Seneca, NY	Anna Rettig	Joanne Bassett	JAPANESE PINWHEEL (JI)	Judith Tucholski

Region 3

Dover, DE	Carol Warner	R. Dennis Hager	SNOWY HILLS (JI)	R. Dennis Hager
Harrisburg, PA	Harold L. Griffie	Jane Bury	MAMMOTH MARVEL (JI)	Harold L. Griffie
Media, PA	Martha Griner	Gary Slagle II	DELIGHTFUL KID (BB)	Ruth Barker
Mt. Lebanon, PA	Larry Grundler	Mike Corle	FIRESIDE GLOW (TB)	Larry Grundler
Wilmington, DE	Joyce Corrin	Ruth Barker	SUPREME SULTAN (TB)	Gary Slagle II
York, PA	Harold L. Griffie	D. Jay Holcomb	EROTIC TOUCH (TB)	Harold L. Griffie

Region 4

Baltimore, MD	Carol Warner	Bruce Hornstein	BELLENDER BLUE (JI)	Carol Warner
Chesterfield Co, VA	Janie Lewis	Frieda Jerrell	ALMADEN (TB)	Peggy Leftwich
Chesterfield Co, VA	Ginny Spoon	Lois Rose	SILK AND VELVET (SDB)	Ray Jones
Frederick, MD	Carol Warner	Lee Dorman	PURPLE MAGIC (TB)	Lee Dorman
Hendersonville, NC	Gail Wilson	Jeanne Grundies	AQUA WHISPERS (SIB)	Betty Anna Brown
Norfolk, VA	Joanne Hamm	Marian "Bea" Rogers	KAH-NEE-TA (TB)	Marian "Bea" Rogers
Raleigh-Durham, NC	Margaret Pearson	Kristen Laing	DAUGHTER OF STARS (TB)	Rosalie Loving
Salisbury, MD	Ann Dumler	Joan Wood	VANITY (TB)	Janice Harrington
Spotsylvania, VA	Lois Rose	Linda Laing	FOR JAY (SPEC-X)	Lois Rose
Vienna, VA	Ginny Spoon	Donald Spoon	GYPSY ROMANCE (TB)	David Stoll
Vienna, VA	Ginny Spoon	Donald Spoon	ZEE (TB)	Ginny Spoon

Region 5

Griffin, GA	Sue Kilgore	Marvin Enquist	VANITY (TB)	Marvin Enquist
Lawrenceville, GA	Mark & Patty Franklin	Gerald Johnson	HELLO DARKNESS (TB)	Mark & Patty Franklin
Macclenny, FL	Sherry Seabrook	Dixie Griffin	MARIE'S CHOICE (LA)	Sherry Seabrook
Milledgeville, GA	Joe & Janet Watson	Earnest Yearwood	SURREAL (TB)	Brittany White
Milledgeville, GA	B. Darlene Brantley	Margaret Chambliss	HARVEST OF MEMORIES	Abby Snow
Moncks Corner, SC	Pat Brooks	Betty Black	DUSKY CHALLENGER (TB)	Betty Black

Region 6

Alpena, MI	Kris Sorgenfrei	Dolores Meininger	HER KINGDOM (TB)	Kris Sorgenfrei
Cleveland, OH	Anthony Willott	Dan Ciolek	LITTLE LOUIE (SDB)	Anthony Willott
Columbus, OH	Bruce Schaffer	Amy Maurer	GOTTA LOTTA BODDA (TB)	Bruce Schaffer
Fort Wayne, IN	Dale Poling	Brian Wendel	DAVY JONES (TB)	Gloria Coverdale
Grand Rapids, MI	Marilyn Hawkins	Jacki Kropf	CHINA SPRING (SIB)	Jacki Kropf
Grand Rapids, MI	Mike Moorman	Leta Kwiatkowski	AFTER EIGHT (TB)	June Davis
Indianapolis, IN	Kent Rumbaugh	Judi Romano	WALKING ON AIR (TB)	Kent Rumbaugh
Lansing, MI	Ruth Esper	Mary Bartel	DAKOTA MOON (TB)	D. K. Weaver
Mansfield, OH	Mary Jo Shrimplin	Christine Cremeans	TENNISON RIDGE (TB)	Kay Hostetler
Muncie, IN	Kent Rumbaugh	Melvin Rogers	FANCY DRESS (TB)	Alice Eich
Portage, MI	Jim & Jill Copeland	Kelly Ward	SHOOTING SPARKS (IB)	Cody Copeland
Strongsville, OH	Anthony Willott	Douglas Fuhrmeyer	WINNING TICKET (TB)	Anthony Willott
Troy, MI	Ann Kline	Ewa de Villers	GREAT GATSBY (TB)	Kathleen Devlin

Region 7

Bowling Green, KY	Betty Wilkins	Raymond Craft	KNOCK 'EM DEAD (TB)	Betty Wilkins
Dresden, TN	B & C. Carney	E. & D. Royal	LADY FRIEND (TB)	B. & C. Carney
Jackson, TN	Sue & Layton Gossage	Marilyn Vernon	DUSKY CHALLENGER (TB)	Sue & Layton Gossage
Knoxville, TN	John Couturier	Tom Parkhill	CHIEF JOHN JOLLY (TB)	Tom Parkhill
Lebanon, TN	Bess Thompson	Evelyn Irwin	MARY FRANCES (TB)	Bess Thompson

Place of Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Specimen	Exhibitor
Lexington, KY	Jim & Janet Wilson	Hugh & Mary Thurman	MAUI MOONLIGHT (IB)	Jim & Janet Wilson
Louisville, KY	Jim & Janet Wilson	James Lessie & John Van Hook	BLUE CHIP STOCK (MTB)	Jim & Janet Wilson
Louisville, KY	Jim & Janet Wilson	James Lessie & John Van Hook	CONSUMMATION (TB)	Jim & Janet Wilson
Memphis, TN	B. & C. Carney	Brenda Belus	SUNKIST MEADOWS (TB)	Mary Sandvig
Murfreesboro, TN	B. & C. Carney	Sue & Layton Gossage	SONG OF NORWAY (TB)	Bill & Ann Brimm
Nashville, TN	Sue & Layton Gossage	Lionel Austell	HIGH ROLLER (TB)	Sue & Layton Gossage

Region 8

Hales Corner, WI	Dorothy Vande	Ramona Vielle	PERFUME SHOP (IB)	Ramona Vielle
Hales Corner, WI	Linda Doffek	Dorothy Vande	SEA POWER (TB)	Joyce Wilcox
Madison, WI	Ledra Mohrmann	John Baker	I'VE GOT RHYTHM (TB)	Ledra Mohrmann
Minneota, MN	Christy Brewers	Mildred Odenbrett	CHANGE OF PACE (TB)	Mildred Odenbrett
Minneapolis, MN	Tim Moore	Walter Doehne	LIGHT VERSE (SPEC)	William Dougherty

Region 9

Glencoe, IL	Merle Lynch	Irene Vass	SILICON PRAIRIE (TB)	Merle Lynch
Lisle, IL	Charles Simon	L. Miller	TWEETY BIRD (SDB)	Charles Simon
Lisle, IL	Charles Simon	Bruce Reider	ABBEY ROAD (TB)	Bruce Reider
Urbana, IL	Jerry & Melody Wilhoit	D. Steve Varner	MRS. IRA NELSON (LA)	Jerry & Melody Wilhoit

Region 10

Lafayette, LA	Joey Musacchia III	Patrick K. O'Conner	FRENCHMEN STREET (LA)	Joey Musacchia III
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Region 11

Boise, ID	Ken Coleman	Sharon Touchstone	SCHOLAR (SDB)	Sharon Touchstone
Boise, ID	Sharon Touchstone	Walt Arndt & Eileen Allison	THORNBIRD (TB)	Joel Shaber
Missoula, MT	Claudia Brown	Herbert Meyer	BLUE LINE (SDB)	Claudia Brown
Missoula, MT	Gary Clark	Roger Muir	PETITE BALLET (IB)	Roger Muir
Twin Falls, ID	Marilyn Gardner	Jeannette Graham	LACE JABOT (TB)	Carolyn Turner

Region 12

Logan, UT	Jeffrey Walters	Debra de Mars	LOCAL COLOR (TB)	Jeffrey Walters
Salt Lake City, UT	Brad & Kathie Kasperek	Florence Wheat	SUN DOLL (SDB)	Brad Kasperek
Salt Lake City, UT	Thomas & Linda Miller	Susan Boyce	CHILO (TB)	Helen West

Region 13

Bellevue, WA	Claire Boussum	Fran Hawk	MY FORTE (TB)	Claire Boussum
Portland, OR	Lee Walker	John Ludi	JERSEY CREAM (TB)	Keith Keppel
Portland, OR	Chad Harris	Will Plotner	DOLCE (SPEC-X)	Chad Harris
Portland, OR	Chad Harris	Terry Aitken	CASCADE SPICE (JI)	Chad Harris
Salem, OR	Keith Keppel	Paul Black	BANISH MISFORTUNE (SIB)	Patricia Loveland
Spokane Valley, WA	Lavern Milton	Norma Lunden	PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE (TB)	Lavern Milton
Sumner, WA	Mel Cross	Alan Brooks	SIREN (MTB)	Alan Brooks
Union Gap, WA	Marjory Clements	Sandi Ravine	KEVIN'S THEME (TB)	Marjory Clements
Walla Walla, WA	Margaret McCrae	Claudia McMartin	PEARL OF LAVENDER (TB)	Claudia McMartin

Place of Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Specimen	Exhibitor
Region 14				
Aptos, CA	Joseph Ghio	Gary Knipe	None awarded	
Auburn, CA	Kathy Braaten	Dolores Bates	SUNKIST DELIGHT (TB)	Dolores Bates
Capitola, CA	Gary Knipe	Joseph Ghio	SMOULDERING FIRE (TB)	Joseph Ghio
Clovis, CA	Bill Tyson	George Sutton	CHERISHED FRIENDSHIP (TB)	Bill Tyson
Fremont, CA	Fran Madden	John Jones	HIGHLINE HALO (SPU)	John Jones
Henderson, NV	Tim Harvey	Helen Rusk	None awarded	
Las Vegas, NV	Paul Fortner	Dorlene Waite	MARILYN HOLLOWAY (SPU)	Dorlene Waite
Oakland, CA	Tim & Kat Boswell	Ryan Grisso	BAR CODE (CA)	Ryan Grisso
Redding, CA	Sandy Olsen	Leona Lee Padden	KNIGHTED (TB)	Sandy Olsen
Sacramento, CA	Joyce Ragle	Bertha Brownlee	BADLANDS (TB)	Della de Corse
San Jose, CA	Gary Knipe	Lisa Ayala	<i>I. douglasiana</i> (SPEC)	Gary Knipe
Santa Rosa, CA	David & Anna Cadd	Ross Bevier	SOJOURNER (CA)	Elyse Hill
Ukiah, CA	Joanne McGrew	Leah Middleton	HELLO DARKNESS (TB)	Marlena Chancellor
Visalia, CA	George Sutton	Bruce Rybnikar	BARBARA MY LOVE (TB)	George Sutton
Walnut Creek, CA	Ryan Grisso	Bob & Janet Canning	NATIVE WARRIOR (CA)	Ryan Grisso

Region 15

Costa Mesa, CA	Lynn McIlwain	Leigh Nicolai-Moon	RUSH HOUR (TB)	Leigh Nicolai-Moon
Palmdale, CA	Richard Stretz	Al Escarcega	FLYING CIRCUS (IB)	Richard Stretz
Phoenix, AZ	Carole Spiess	Don Shepard	KITT PEAK (SPU)	Carole Spiess
Phoenix, AZ	Kathy Chilton	John Weber	ICARUS (LA)	Kathy Chilton
San Bernardino, CA	Paul & Carole Buchheim	Leigh Nicolai-Moon	GUADALAJARA (TB)	Kim Ung
Tucson, AZ	Ben Herman	Forestal Gardens	ICARUS (LA)	Ben Herman
Woodland Hills, CA	Randy Squires	Mary Anne Abrahms	REVERE (TB)	Peggy Carpenter

Region 16

Waterdown, ON	Chuck Chapman	Gloria McMillen	ANCASTER BLUE RUFFLE (TB)	Gloria McMillen
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Region 17

Amarillo, TX	Kenneth Mazurek	Dawn K. Boyer	SUN FUN (TB)	Dawn K. Boyer
Austin, TX	Sonja & Charlie Hensley	Patricia & Don Freeman	CAJUN SUNRISE (LA)	Lindsey Schell
Belton, TX	Jim Landers	Susan Robison	BADITUDE (TB)	Susan Robison
Cleburne, TX	Gloria Huddleston	Peggy & Dan Cathey	PACIFIC MIST (TB)	Gloria Huddleston
Dallas, TX	Ken & Penny Maxham	Hooker & Bonnie Nichols	DURAL WHITE BUTTERFLY (LA)	Hooker & Bonnie Nichols
Denison, TX	Alisa Peters	Janice Thompson	BRAZENBERRY (TB)	Annette Brown
Fort Worth, TX	Joe & Donna Spears	Mark Legler	TITAN'S GLORY (TB)	Joe & Donna Spears
Lubbock, TX	Ramona Howard	Lucille Sedgwick	FREE SPACE (TB)	Ramona Howard
Lubbock, TX	Vernon & Dana Brown	Rosemary English	ADOBE CAMPFIRE (TB)	Vernon & Dana Brown
Midland, TX	Pat Jones	Connie Ford	JOY JUNCTION (TB)	Pat Jones
Mt. Pleasant, TX	Joe Ferrell	Annette Gilbert	ELECTRIC SURGE (TB)	Barbara Null
New Braunfels, TX	Shirley Smith	Sandy & Schroeder	CORDOBA (TB)	Shirley Smith
Odessa, TX	Pat Jones	Debbie Davila	NEW TUNE (TB)	Pat Jones
Waco, TX	Hazel Haik	Gloria Huddleston	TEXTRONICS (TB)	Gloria Huddleston

Place of Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Specimen	Exhibitor
Wichita Falls, TX	Wm. K. Parker, Jr.	Jayne Wilst	HORATIO (TB)	Wm. K. Parker, Jr.
Region 18				
Barnhart, MO	James Morris	Bob Skaggs	DRAGON'S DEN (SDB)	James Morris
Cape Girardeau, MO	O.D. Niswonger	Charles Pickett	QUEEN'S CIRCLE (TB)	O.D. Niswonger
Crestwood, MO	James Morris	Laura Strum	SYNCPATION (TB)	Kayla Brinkley
Dodge City, KS	J. C. Sinclair	Alice Sinclair	RADIANT ENERGY (TB)	John Schartz
Hutchinson, KS	Judy Eckhoff	Nellye Drake	MOUNTAIN VIEW (TB)	Betty Hill
Jefferson City, MO	Eric Tankesley-Clarke	Wayne Merrill	PERFECTION (TB)	Eric Tankesley-Clarke
Joplin, MO	Shirley Fields	Barbara Knell	SUPERSTITION (TB)	Shirley Fields
Mission, KS	Debora Hughes	Kevin Morley	<i>I. pseudacorus</i> (SPEC)	Judy Keisling
Parsons, KS	John Spare	Nicky Mealey	WELL ENDOWED (TB)	John Spare
Springfield, MO	Beverly DeWitt	Janice Overbey	SILHOUETTE (TB)	Lisa Stevens
St. Joseph, MO	Beverly Hoyt	Gary Kincaid	ENSIGN (TB)	Jerry Sampson
St. Louis, MO	Earnest & Deborah Royal	Badger & Carol Ann Carney	DYNAMITE (TB)	Badger & Carol Ann Carney
Wichita, KS	Kendal Rohr	Tricia Ardisonne	STARWOMAN (IB)	Kendal Rohr
Wichita, KS	Kendal Rohr	Dorothy Dickson	LA MEIJE (TB)	Len Suchy
Wichita, KS	Helen Reynolds	Kendal Rohr	ELEVEN POINT RIVER (SPU)	Kendal Rohr

Region 19

Burlington, NJ	Catherine Button	Ruth Barker	GHOST TRAIN (TB)	Gary Slagle
Morristown, NJ	Wm. & Martha Griner	Gary Slagle	CELEBRATION SONG (TB)	Gary Slagle

Region 20

Colorado Springs, CO	William Hulka	Kay Gagnon	WINE TIME (TB)	William Hulka
Denver, CO	Lowell Baumunk	Patricia & Don Morgan	STATUS SEEKER (TB)	Lisa Story
Rocky Ford, CO	Linda Tomky	Karen Tomky	DESERT MELODY (AR)	Karen Tomky

Region 21

Lincoln, NE	Gary White	Beverly Smith	FLIGHTS OF FANCY (TB)	Robin Shadlow
Lincoln, NE	Gary White	Linda Bader	DEVIL'S DREAM (SIB)	Gary White
Norfolk, NE	Neal Pohlman	Marjorie Jansen	SMILING GOLD (TB)	Calvin Reuter
Sioux City, IA	Lawrence Lacey	Arnold Koekkoek	SONG OF NORWAY (TB)	Mrs. Tova Johnson

Region 22

Edmond, OK	Bonnie Hadaway	Lota Guynes	VENUS AND MARS (TB)	Bonnie Hadaway
Enid, OK	Ann Dee Barrows	Lynn Whitebay	LADY LAREE (TB)	Lee & Lynn Whitebay
Hot Springs, AR	Jim Bledsoe	Bettie Nash	JESSE'S SONG (TB)	Jim Bledsoe
Lawton, OK	Marjorie Puckett	Maryestelle Bishop	ALABASTER UNICORN (TB)	Brenda Nease
Lawton, OK	Brenda Nease	Marjorie Puckett	LARK ASCENDING (TB)	Marjorie Puckett
Lawton, OK	Maryestelle Bishop	Maryann Holman	SOUTHERN THUNDER (TB)	Maryann Holman
Little Rock, AR	Robert Treadway	Maureen Corder	WINGS OF MERCURY (IA)	Robert Treadway
Norman, OK	Greg & Diana Cary	Mary Ann Stevens	COORABELL (IA)	Louise Carson
Oklahoma City, OK	Hugh & Jennifer Stout	Greg Cary	MODERN MAJOR GENERAL (TB)	Bob Voss
Oklahoma City, OK	Greg Cary	Hugh & Jennifer Stout	DODGE CITY (TB)	June Hardy
Oklahoma City, OK	Monte Stahl	Hugh & Jennifer Stout	DRAMA QUEEN (TB)	Monte Stahl
Oklahoma City, OK	Greg & Diana Cary	Hugh & Jennifer Stout	SWINGTOWN (TB)	Monte Stahl

Place of Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Specimen	Exhibitor
Ponca City, OK	Ann Dee & Mickey Barrows	Bill & Carol Goldsberry	STOP THE MUSIC (TB)	Laura Davidson
Searcy, AR	LaVera Johnson	Alice Jewell	PENNY LANE (TB)	LaVera Johnson
Tulsa, OK	Jo Ann Minter	Charlann & Philip Stonecipher	HONORARIUM (TB)	Jo Ann Minter
Tulsa, OK	Jo Ann Minter	Charlann & Phillip Stonecipher	VENETIAN GLASS (TB)	Jo Ann Minter

Region 23

Albuquerque, NM	Valerie White	Pete McGrath	TRIBE OF JUDAH (AR)	Pete McGrath
Albuquerque, NM	Valerie White	Helen Radebaugh	IMPULSIVE (TB)	Kelsey McGrath
Las Cruces, NM	Maxine Perkins	Elouise Young	PERSIAN PADISHA (AB)	Maxine Perkins
Roswell, NM	Pegi Naranjo	Lenora Rogers	AMBROSIA FOOL (TB)	Pegi Naranjo
Santa Fe, NM	John & Rosemary Cain	Henry & Frances Day	JEWELLED CROWN (SIB)	John & Rosemary Cain

Region 24

Grenada, MS	Walter Moores	Willola Sullivant	VIOLET SHIMMER (TB)	Carrie Rice
Huntsville, AL	Donny Sanford	Clara Henderson	BLOWING BUBBLES (TB)	James Burch

AIS ARTISTIC SHOWS — WINNERS OF 2005

Place of Show	Best Design	Artistic	Best Design	Artistic
Sweepstakes		Sweepstakes	Youth	Youth

Region 1

Auburn, ME	Nancy McNeil	Linda Ridlon	Jolene Best	Kelsey Best
Shelburne Falls, MA	Andrew Wheeler	Louise Dunphy		
South Paris, ME	Sharon Harvie	Sharon Harvie		
Waltham, MA	Kathy Marble		Marie Austin	Marie Austin

Region 2

Buffalo, NY	Judy Kucholski			
Pulaski, NY	Jaime Smith	Jaime Smith		
West Seneca, NY	Maria Gerbracht			

Region 3

Mt. Lebanon, PA	Judith Fetzke			
Wilmington, DE	Catherine Button			

Region 4

Baltimore, MD	Camille Medinger			
Chesterfield Co, VA	Phillipa Smith	Cen Waters		

Region 5

Lawrenceville, GA	Melissa Foster			
Macclenny, FL	Sondra Jones	Sondra Jones	Leanne Griffin	Leanne Griffin
Milledgeville, GA	Joe Scott Watson	Roy Mixon		
Moncks Corner, SC	Shirley Lawhorn	Shirley Lawhorn		

Place of Show	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes	Best Design Youth	Artistic Sweepstakes Youth
Region 6				
Alpena, MI	Dolores Meinzinger	Dolores Meinzinger		
Cleveland, OH	Anthony Willott	Dorothy Willott		
Columbus, OH	Amy Maurer	Amy Maurer		
Fort Wayne, IN	Kathy Lee			
Grand Rapids, MI	Ruth Levanduski	Ruth Levanduski		
Indianapolis, IN	Dan Howell		Dan Howell	
Lansing, MI	Elaine Ferris		Emily Downes	
Mansfield, OH	Johanna Bodiford	Johanna Bodiford		
Muncie, IN	Betty Thomas			
Strongsville, OH	Joy Fuhrmeyer	Joy Fuhrmeyer		
Region 7				
Bowling Green, KY	Ann Hocker	Ann Jacobs		
Knoxville, TN	Ruth Ennenga	Ruth Ennenga		
Lebanon, TN	Katie Shook	Katie Shook		
Louisville, KY	Charlotte Yong	Paul Owen		
Memphis, TN	Caroline Nave			
Murfreesboro, TN	Susan Fisk			
Nashville, TN	Cynda Ferguson			
Region 8				
Madison, WI	Evelyn Thompson	Evelyn Thompson		
Minneota, MN	Julianne Covais		Alex Guttormsson	
Minneapolis, MN	Joan Cooper			
Region 9				
Glencoe, IL	Rita Zachary	Pat Hessel		
Lisle, IL	Nancy Timko	B. Miller	Samantha Hendrickson	Samantha Hendrickson
Lisle, IL	Betsy Grimm	Betsy Grimm	Allyssa Timko	Samantha Hendrickson
Hinsdale, IL	Betsy Grimm	Betsy Grimm	Heather Hamblin	
Region 11				
Boise, ID	Eileen Allison	Sharon Touchstone		
Boise, ID	Louisa Cone	Louisa Cone		
Missoula, MT	Donna Dowell	Donna Dowell		
Missoula, MT	Jim Sadler			
Twin Falls, ID	Jeannette Graham	Patti Hurley		
Region 12				
Logan, UT	Debra de Mars	Debra de Mars	Josh Brown	Josh Brown
Salt Lake City, UT	Cathy Hagan Reed			
Salt Lake City, UT	Lynn Hess			
Region 13				
Portland, OR	Kath Collier	Kath Collier		
Portland, OR	Sandra Rassi	Kath Collier		

Place of Show	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes	Best Design Youth	Artistic Sweepstakes Youth
Portland, OR	Kath Collier	Kath Collier		
Salem, OR	Char Mutschler	Char Mutschler		
Spokane Valley, WA	Shirley Dicus	Larry Littman		
Sumner, WA	Eileen Smiley	Eileen Smiley		
Union Gap, WA	Dorothy Munroe	Dorothy Monroe	Nayeli Sanchez	Nayeli Sanchez
Walla Walla, WA	Connie Sherer	Connie Sherer		

Region 14

Auburn, CA	Dolores Bates	Dolores Bates	Kadee Felton	Kadee Felton
Clovis, CA	Laverne Cottet		Helen Gates	
Henderson, NV	Ray Vickers-Traft			
Las Vegas, NV	Jean Paul	Jean Paul		
Sacramento, CA	Betty Schmidt	Betty Schmidt		
San Jose, CA	Krypton Imai	Elaine Fischer		
Ukiah, CA	Jean Near	Donna Branson		
Walnut Creek, CA	Mary Sindicic			

Region 15

Costa Mesa, CA	Elaine Monninger	Elaine Monninger		
Palmdale, CA	Joyce Bertram			
Phoenix, AZ	Clemence Newcomb		Megan Konves	
San Bernardino, CA	Mike Monninger	Mike Monninger		
Woodland Hills, CA	Eilen Fiumara	Eilene Fiumara	Julie Cornell	Christie Branch

Region 17

Amarillo, TX	Dawn K. Boyer	Dawn K. Boyer		
Austin, TX	Patricia Freeman	Nelda Moore		
Cleburne, TX	Helen Furr			
Denison, TX	Jan Montgomery	Jan Montgomery		
Fort Worth, TX	Josephine Harp			
Lubbock, TX	Rosemary English	Ramona Howard		
Lubbock, TX	Ramona Howard	Tie: Ramona Howard and Louise Palermo		
Midland, TX	Celena Zimmerman	Debra Strauss	Stephanie Strauss	Stephanie Strauss
Mt. Pleasant, TX	Annette Gilbert			
New Braunfels, TX	Terri DeCoux	Tie: Terri DeCoux and Shirley Smith		
Odessa, TX	Hazel Haik	Hazel Haik		
Wichita Falls, TX	Annetta Reusch	Sybil Moser		

Region 18

Crestwood, MO	Jean Morris	Terri Young	Dan Willenberg	Tanecia Fitch
Dodge City, KS	Marti Woods	Marti Woods		
Hutchinson, KS	Pat Bass	Pat Bass	Sidney Moore	Micah Moore
Joplin, MO	Barbara Knell	Barbara Knell		
Mission, KS	Sidney Martin			
Parsons, KS	Lucy Pearce	Lucy Pearce		
Springfield, MO	Gladys Jones	Gladys Jones	Kristin Segrest	Kristin Segrest
St. Joseph, MO	Lucille Boswell	Lucille Boswell		
St. Louis, MO	Vince Italian	Augustina Pusateri		

Place of Show	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes	Best Design Youth	Artistic Sweepstakes Youth
Wichita, KS	Sheryl Fitzpatrick	Sheryl Fitzpatrick		
Wichita, KS	Sheryl Fitzpatrick	Sheryl Fitzpatrick		
Wichita, KS	Helen Reynolds	Helen Reynolds		
Region 19				
Burlington, NJ	Catherine Button	Catherine Button		
Region 20				
Colorado Springs, CO	Betty Roberts	Betty Roberts	Kasi Wyatt	Kasi Wyatt
Denver, CO	Jo James	Jo James		
Rocky Ford, CO	Rose McClain	Rose McClain		
Region 21				
Lincoln, NE	Jean Pedersen	Jean Pedersen	Grace Farley	Nicole Pedersen
Lincoln, NE	Grace Farley	Grace Farley		
Norfolk, NE	Marian Burleigh	Marian Burleigh		
Sioux City, IA	Dennis Wolf	Dennis Wolf		
Region 22				
Edmond, OK	Sadie Hild	Sadie Hild		
Enid, OK	Helen Day	Ginny Tripp		
Hot Springs, AR	Rosalyn Halbert			
Lawton, OK	David Barton	David Barton	Whitney James	Whitney James
Lawton, OK		David Barton	David Barton	Whitney James
Little Rock, AR	Wendell Hull			
Norman, OK	Nancy Kowalchyk	Nancy Kowalchyk	Courtney Wade	Courtney Wade
Oklahoma City, OK	Mardi McKenzie	Mardi McKenzie		
Oklahoma City, OK	April Pratt			
Tulsa, OK	Mary Helen Davis		Leah Winzer	
Region 23				
Albuquerque, NM	Shirley Tetreault	Shirley Tetreault	Christina Lawrence	
Roswell, NM	Georgia Schoenecker	Georgia Schoenecker	Sabrina Slusser	Sabrina Slusser
Santa Fe, NM	Gwen Anlian	Gwen Anlian	Mark Heltman	
Region 24				
Blountsville, AL	Delois Dunn	Dorothy Holmes		

AIS SHOWS – YOUTH WINNERS OF 2005

Place of Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Specimen-Youth	Exhibitor-Youth
Region 1				
Auburn, ME	Jacob Hastings	Claire Fletcher	MAGICAL ENCOUNTER (TB)	Jacob Hastings
Region 4				
Chesterfield Co, VA			<i>I. pseudacorus</i> (SPEC)	Kristen Laing
Region 5				
Griffin, GA			SKATING PARTY (TB)	Heaven Smarr
Macclenny, FL			NO DATA (LA)	Jarrett Raulerson
Milledgeville, GA	Brittany White	Abby Snow	SURREAL (TB)	Brittany White
Region 6				
Alpena, MI	Samuel Gartner	Luke Dreyer	LORILEE (TB)	Abby Tongue
Fort Wayne, IN			SONJA'S SELAH (BB)	Justin Parker
Indianapolis, IN			KAH-NEE-TA (TB)	Kirsten Richardson
Portage, MI	Shawn Copeland	Cody Copeland	SHOOTING SPARKS (IB)	Cody Copeland
Region 7				
Dresden, TN	Blake Stoker		VICTORIA FALLS (TB)	Blake Stoker
Jackson, TN	Kameron Flowers	Grayson Hawkins	NIGHT ATTACK (TB)	Grayson Hawkins
Lexington, KY			CAJUN SPICES (TB)	Victoria Adkins
Region 8				
Minneapolis, MN			BROWN LASSO (BB)	Casey Pecoutky
Region 9				
Lisle, IL			SAM (SDB)	Samantha Hendrickson
Lisle, IL			RASPBERRY JEWELRY (TB)	Allyssa Timko
Region 14				
Auburn, CA			TIGER SHARK (TB)	Kadee Felton
Capitola, CA			CREDIT LINE (TB)	Willy Sampson
Ukiah, CA			WAITING FOR OCTOBER (BB)	Robin Ingram
Visalia, CA			WORLD PREMIER (TB)	Shelby Sutton
Walnut Creek, CA			MERIT (MTB)	Steven Boswell
Region 16				
Waterdown, ON			AUTUMN EMBERS (SDB)	Jammie Chapman
Region 17				
Odessa, TX	Ryan Carnes	Stephanie Strauss		
Region 18				
Crestwood, MO	Constance Harris	Markeita Borney	SYNCOPATION (TB)	Kayla Brinkley
Hutchinson, KS	Rachel Hindle	Cora Ogden	CELEBRATION SONG (TB)	Rachel Hindle

Place of Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Specimen-Youth	Exhibitor-Youth
Springfield, MO	Kristin Segrest	Becky Ketcherside	JESSE'S SONG (TB)	Kristin Segrest
St. Louis, MO	Kristen Laing		SKY AND SUN (TB)	Kristen Laing

Region 21

Lincoln, NE	Nicole Pedersen	Kyle Pedersen	NICE N' NIFTY (IB)	Nicole Pedersen
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Region 22

Lawton, OK	Dylon Kyle	Whitney James	FIRESIDE GLOW (TB)	Dylon Kyle
Lawton, OK	Whitney James	Jessica Miller	CELEBRATION SONG (TB)	Jessica Miller
Norman, OK			WITCH'S SABBATH (TB)	Nicole Huston
Ponca City, OK	Kelsey Whitebay	Chris Davidson	STOP THE MUSIC (TB)	Laura Davidson
Tulsa, OK	Evan Plew	Colby Meece	OCELOT (TB)	Evan Plew
Tulsa, OK			WISHFUL THINKING (TB)	Colby Meece

Region 23

Roswell, NM			DRUM ROLL (TB)	Eryn Frosch
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DISPLAYS - EDUCATIONAL & COMMERCIAL

Place of Show	Educational	Commercial
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Region 4

Hendersonville, NC	Gail Wilson	
Norfolk, VA	Marian "Bea" Rogers	Marian "Bea" Rogers

Region 5

Maccleenny, FL	Penny Raulerson	
Milledgeville, GA	Cindy White	

Region 7

Lebanon, TN	Fay Huddleston	
Lexington, KY	Annette Milch	

Region 11

Boise, ID	Sharon Touchstone	
Boise, ID	Sharon Touchstone	
Twin Falls, ID	Judy Erdman	

Region 13

Bellevue, WA	George & Carol Lankow	
Walla Walla, WA	Al Johnson	

Region 14

Auburn, CA	Melanie North	
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Region 15

Phoenix, AZ	Amanda Nolan	
San Bernardino, CA	Sharon Burdelus	

Place of Show	Educational	Commercial
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Region 17

Austin, TX	Nelda Moore	
Austin, TX	Carolyn Gifford	
Fort Worth, TX	Valerie Meredith	
Midland, TX	Stephanie Strauss	

Region 18

Crestwood, MO	Mat Knishild, Cindel Harris, Chris Sweeney, Shepelle Sutton, Valerie Mertz	
Hutchinson, KS	LaDeana Hindle	

Region 20

Colorado Springs, CO	Joe & Kay Gagnon	Lola Quinn
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Region 22

Lawton, OK	Marjorie Puckett & Elsie Harrons	
Lawton, OK	Marjorie Puckett	
Oklahoma City, OK	Harley & Jeannette Limke	

Region 23

Albuquerque, NM	Patricia Randall	
Albuquerque, NM		Patricia Randall
Las Cruces, NM	Patricia Randall	
Santa Fe, NM	Patricia Randall	

EXHIBITION CERTIFICATES for 2005

Tall Bearded (TB)

Aitken, Terry	OOT35A	Hahn, Clyde	90-3-3
Bare, Garland	98 JWW 01a	Johnson, Beverly	2005-1
Baumunk, Lowell	ACEA	Keppel, Keith	98-42B
Baumunk, Lowell	683G	Keppel, Keith	PARISIAN DAWN
Begley, Jim	A1	Keppel, Keith	JAZZ BAND
Black, Paul	B117-A	Kerr, Frederick	00-93Z
Black, Paul	L72 A	Kerr, Frederick	01-031H
Black, Paul	L83 A	Kerr, Frederick	99-144-1
Brooks, Pat	PB-TB2	Kerr, Frederick	99-073E
Brown, Janice	2005-1	Kerr, Frederick	99-075C
Burch, James	IVORY DICE	Kilgore, Sue	E 2000-2
Butler, Brett	B 02 06	Lange, Anthony	2-19-14
Butler, Brett	B 02 04 E	Lauer, Larry	812-10
Chadwick, Keith	L-3-16-2	Loberg, Marc	BgtU 03
Cornelius, Tim	T-2005	Moller, Mike	RB-2
Coutourier, Geraldine	A-12	Niswonger, O.D.	6-03
Ghio, Joseph	99-93S3	Niswonger, O.D.	24-00
Ghio, Joseph	01-140T	Niswonger, O.D.	27-00
Griner, Erin	E99-011A	Null, Barbara	BN1-05
Griner, Erin	9902-5	Olson, David	2001 E 7
		Petrovich, Helen	99A

Probst, Riley	NX69GM
Reed, Bob	TRD-100
Richlie, Wayne	R-1
Richlie, Wayne	R-3
Robertson, Leon	016B
Robertson, Leon	941-D
Rogers, Ray	MUSE'S VISIT
Rogers, Ruth	RL-701-B
Scarborough, Truman & Delores	BREAD PUDDING
Schick, Oscar	99-46-C01
Spoon, Don	97-83A
Squires, Randy	4-112
Stout, Hugh & Jennifer	10-01
Sturm, Laura	LS-05
Sutton, Michael	P-555-A
Sutton, George	L-20X
Tomky, Karen	KTCM 2
Tripp, John	96J-3-13
Tripp, John & Ginny	98R-7-2
Ung, Kim	JPIK
Van Hook, John	D-01-V-01
Van Liere, Bob	22-99
Van Liere, Bob	23BW24
Van Liere, Bob	99AD7
Vizvarie, Chris	CCAE1 (SA)
Walker, Lee	TBBC 02-57-3
Walker, Lee	TBBC 02-57-45
Watson, Joe	WE.ES-05-1
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	BUTTER RUFFLES
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 01-110A
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 01-110B
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 2K-209

Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB)

Aitken, Terry	00 M 14
Coleman, Carol L.	00-SDB-G-8
Keppel, Keith	99-24G
Koschara, Mildred	99-8-2
Rohr, Kendal	2-S2B-2KO
Sorensen, Donald R.	S-98-6-5
Spoon, Donald	2003-33B
Voss, Bob	PURE PRAYER
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 01-23
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 03-55
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 03-88
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	ORANGE ZEST

Intermediate Bearded (IB)

Smith, Marky	99-26A
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	AZTEC GOWN
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 03-112

Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 05-115
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Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB)

Bare, Garland	INKY DINKY
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 97-5-9
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 03-6
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 03-12
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 03-98

Border Bearded (BB)

Christopherson, Vincent	L5-224
Ensminger, Allan	96-24
Spoon, Donald	2003-182A

Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB)

Bunnell, Charles	G12B-3
Craig, Vicki	AH 136L 11
French, Mona	96-9B
Hazelton, Warren	02-A19
Ives, Sandy	IWFW-14
Kincaid, Gary	00A1-Z
Koschara, Midlred & Gene	99-20-2
Leader, Pat & Jason	1-1-5
Markham, Stephanie	02-4A
Rohr, Kendal	R-S1-M1-2K2
Rohr, Kendal	R-S4-M1-2K2
Rumbaugh, Kent	CKR-4
Tankesley-Clarke, Eric	3911 BW

Aril & Arilbred (AR & AB)

McAllister, Sharon	91-21-2
McGrath, Peter R.	McAB99-73B
McGrath, Peter R.	McAR01-29
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	W 01-12

Californicae (CA)

Canning, Bob & Janet	2002-19-18
Ghio, Joseph	HP-10
Ghio, Joseph	HP-12-FB
Grisso, Ryan	R25-30
Knipe, Garry	SGM34-2
Knipe, Garry	SGM34-6
Plotner, Will	C3PC1
Walters, Mike	MW05-1

Louisiana (LA)

Campbell, Farron	9D-336-LA
Landers, Jim	CL 4
Musacchio, Joe	J-1
O'Conner, Patrick	01-06
O'Conner, Patrick	05-01
Seabrook, Sherry	Sea 02/08
Shepard, Don	21036-98A5L

Vaughn, Kevin
CANDLELIGHT
SUPPER

Walters, Jeffrey
Wheeler, Andrew
98S-SP-1
CR-DW106-R10-1

Japanese (JI)

Harris, Chad
Rettig, Anna
Smith, Stephen
Walker, Lee
97JDJ
AR 32
98J-2-22
93-57-9

Spuria (SPU)

Cadd, David & Anna
Jenkins, Charles
Reynolds, Helen
18-91-4A
CR 22A
78-52


Siberian (SIB)

Cook, Phil
Dunlop, Jeff
Helsley, Calvin
Iler, Michael
James, Ron
Lockatell, Michael
Morley, Kevin
Ravet, Lloyd
Sacks, Jan & Schafer, Marty
Sacks, Jan & Schafer, Marty
Varner, D. Steve
6A04
01160-1T
04-06
01S17A
0022005
20150-26-S
M/96 B1
S 03-01
S00-65-1
S02-17-10
21046

Species (SPEC)

Coleman, Carol
02J-103

Interspecies (SPEC-X)

Foster, Frank
Shimizu, Hiroshi
KUNI
Shimizu, Hiroshi
Shimizu, Hiroshi
Shimizu, Hiroshi
Shimizu, Hiroshi
Shimizu, Hiroshi
Wood, John
99-101
BYAKUYA NO
KANAMARU
KINO HIME
OKAGAMI
TSUKIYONO
USUKIBYOSHI
W/101/8 

The Tulsa Area Iris Society and Historic Irises

by Paul Gossett, Oklahoma

The Tulsa Area Iris Society has had an Historic Section for many years but, what was so unusual this year was the number of entries in the section. We had overall 6 exhibitors with 20 entries and 19 varieties/cultivars in our second show on Mother's Day weekend, May 7 & 8, 2005.

TAIS divides the section into three parts, but there is only one section winner awarded. This year they were divided as follows.

S-1 Heirloom Historic (Iris dating from 1500 through 1923)

S-2 Antique Historic (Iris dating from 1924 through 1953)

S-3 Classic Historic (Iris dating from 1954 through 1975)

You will also see historic irises in the Tall Bearded Section of the show but, the last several years we have been encouraging our members to show the historic irises in the Historic Section.

Also interesting is seeing how fast the historic irises sell at our sales. We place pictures, if we have them, in front of the rhizomes as we do with the other irises but, the historic irises seem to sale out every year.

The Tulsa Area Iris Society has been a member of the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) for about 10 years.

Reigning Iris:

All That It Can Be (Part One)

by Bill Rinehart, Oregon

I. Benefits

Why do you go to AIS Nationals?

There are two related reasons I attend these events. I have the so far incurable iris virus, symptoms of which are the compulsion to see the new and possibly new introductions. Second, I attend to bond with old friends, to cultivate acquaintances as new friends, and to meet new people who have similar passions and interests. The benefit: The intensification of pleasure when you share iris with others: Grow iris, cultivate friends.

II. Registration

I have been told that I should register early. Why?

Simply put, because you may be left out if you don't register early. No, you wouldn't be turned away. BUT!: The hotel is filling up. The banquet hall has a limited capacity. The optional tours have limits.....

What should I sign up for?

The Welcome Banquet and the garden tours are a must. The Geek Dinner and Awards Banquet are within the minimum suggested time frame and recommended. The optional tours are individual choices. Please check the website for further information to assist you in this decision.

III. Arrival/Departure Dates

When would you suggest a first-timer should arrive and depart?

This too is an individual decision. Naturally, you have to check your bank account, ask yourself how long you would be comfortable away from home, etc. The minimum recommended time is to arrive in time to attend the Welcome Banquet on Wednesday evening without pressure, and to check out on Sunday without having to pay for lodging that evening. However, don't make this decision too quickly. In that time frame you wouldn't be able to fit in much else.

IV. Lodging

We've heard rumors that the Red Lion is sold out. Is this true?

Yes, the Red Lion is now fully booked. Please see John Ludi's article elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin* for backup hotel info.

V. Packing

What should I pack?

Oregon “reigns”. Normally, the most frequent fall is in the winter months of January and February. However, in ‘05 the winter was warm and spring was soggy. Bring whatever protection will make you comfortable. Layer to keep dry, cold is not a problem for the majority, though as we get older....

At the banquets some will wear what they wear in the gardens; jackets and ties are worn by some men, and gowns by some women. The majority will wear what the brochures call “resort wear”: open collars, chinos, sweaters/blazers for men and dresses/pant suits for the women.

In the garden your choice of footwear is important. The ground is not always level and may be muddy. Think appropriate, not appealing. Sweatshirts and polos with iris themes are common. Sunscreen is a must.

Are cameras prohibited in the gardens?

Cameras are never a problem — although photographers can sometimes be! But photographers haven’t been banned or censored yet. Bring your camera, bring more film/discs and batteries than you might otherwise. Running out is common. Remember to pack a charger if necessary.

A quick check on what is frowned on:

Grooming stalks, particularly those with seedpods and tags.

Dangling objects: camera bags, purses, carried garments, etc., which can make contact with flower petals and stalks. Leave such objects on the bus!

Stepping into beds to touch, smell, read the tags, or take pictures.

VI. Airport shuttle and other transportation

How do we get from the airport to the hotel?

A free shuttle to the hotel runs every half hour from 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The pickup point is just outside the baggage claim area.

Is there transport from the hotel to downtown Portland?

It is possible to take the Red Lion shuttle to and from the airport, and then from the airport you can travel downtown via the Max (light rail) to venues of interest. If more than one couple share a cab, the cost is not prohibitive and you have a knowledgeable guide at your command. Renting a car as a shared venture is also a cost-effective and a pleasant way to travel farther afield.

Is there shopping nearby?

The Jantzen Beach Shopping Center is at hand.

VII. Checking In

Where do I report in when I arrive?

There will be a convention registration table just to the right of the registration/check in counter in the hotel lobby. At this table you will pick up a packet which contains among other things your nametag, banquet tickets, and the Convention Booklet.

Why are you shouting about the CONVENTION BOOKLET?

Because it has the convention schedule, necessary instructions, a description of each of the gardens, and a listing of all the guest iris in each garden. We'll talk further about the use of the convention booklet in section XI.

VIII. Meals and Refreshment

What meals are provided with the registration fee?

With full registration you are entitled to the Welcome Banquet on Wednesday evening and the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. Refreshments are liberally provided at all gardens during the visits on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Lunch is included on these days as well. If you arrive with the majority on Wednesday, you'll have the banquets on Wednesday and Saturday, and you have the option of attending the increasingly popular Geek Dinner (\$28) and Auction on Friday night, which leaves only Thursday evening without a provided dinner. So Thursday is a great opportunity to collect old friends and new acquaintances for an off-campus escape. For those who see this as an opportunity to relax, the Red Lion has a range of venues, and nearby restaurants are... nearby... You will receive a list of such restaurants in your packet on arrival.

But what about breakfast?

Well, what about breakfast? Maybe Thursday morning will seem to be an issue if you are accustomed to a big breakfast. However, from the moment you arrive at the first garden until the conclusion of the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, the gourmands among you will eat nonstop. Nobody starves, few will actually be hungry.

If you must have a full breakfast remember that boarding the buses is scheduled for 7:00 a.m. The Red Lion will set up a light breakfast buffet in the lobby on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. We are assured that the hours will fit our departure schedule.

What food and beverages are provided on the optional tours?

Lunch is a part of all three of the optional tours provided on Monday and Tuesday. Other meals on these days are on your own.

IX. Section Meetings

What are the "Section Meetings" I see on the schedule?


Under the umbrella of the AIS are smaller units concentrating on the promotion of a particular class or similar classes of iris. These groups, or sections, meet annually at the national convention to share information and their passion for a specific kind of iris. These meetings often provide a speaker, a panel of experts, and/or a slide show.

Do I have to be a member to attend?

Everyone is welcome. Many who attend are nonmembers. This is one of the hidden benefits of national convention attendance: an opportunity to become better acquainted with classes of iris where you are not yet expert. Be forewarned that there is a danger of contagion.

When are these Section Meetings?

The section meetings on Tuesday are board meetings, meetings of the officers and appointees of the section. The section meetings which you ought to consider are on Wednesday during the day and on Thursday night.

[to be continued in the April issue of the Bulletin] 

In Memoriam

Florence A. Beathard (Ohio)
 Robert Bolton (Georgia)
 Francis Brenner (Illinois)
 Don Clark (Oregon)
 Charlotte Haney (New York)
 Doris Hatten (Arizona)
 James M. Irvin (Colorado)
 Margaret (Mrs. James) McCrae (Washington)
 Helen Morse (California)
 Patricia (Mrs. Gus) Schreiner (Oregon)
 George D. Slade (Kentucky)
 Millie Townsend (Missouri)
 Robert F.G. Wilson (Michigan)

Symposium Results

compiled by Gerry Snyder, Symposium Chair

R2005	R2006	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
1	1	DUSKY CHALLENGER	495	Schreiner	86	M-L	39"	dark purple
3	2	JESSE'S SONG	358	B. Williamson	83	M	36"	wht. & violet plicata
2	3	CONJURATION	352	M. Byers	89	M-L	36"	wht. & violet wht. Horns
4	4	SILVERADO	326	Schreiner	87	M	38"	light silver blue
6	5	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	311	L. Lauer	93	E-M	40"	off wht. S./med. bl.F
9	6	THORNBIRD	286	M. Byers	89	M	35"	ecru tan vio. horns
5	7	BEVERLY SILLS	270	B. Hager	79	M	36"	pink
6	8	CELEBRATION SONG	266	Schreiner	93	E-M-L	37"	apricot-pink S. blue-lavender falls
8	9	YAQUINA BLUE	257	Schreiner	92	M	37"	medium blue
12	10	BEFORE THE STORM	245	S. Innerst	89	M	36"	near black
16	11	STEPPING OUT	240	Schreiner	64	M-L	38"	wht. & violet plicata
19	12	SPLASHACATA	238	R. Tasco	98	M	35"	purple on white dotted plicata
14	13	LADY FRIEND	236	J. Ghio	81	VE-E	38"	garnet red
18	14	MESMERIZER	231	M. Byers	91	M	36"	white/white flounces
17	15	VANITY	221	B. Hager	75	E-L	36"	pink
11	16	HELLO DARKNESS	218	Schreiner	93	E-M	37"	purple black
52	17	QUEEN'S CIRCLE	214	F. Kerr	0	ML	32"	white, blue border on F
14	18	TITAN'S GLORY	213	Schreiner	81	E-M	37"	dark violet
13	19	EDITH WOLFORD	212	B. Hager	86	M	40"	yellow S.;blue- violet F
21	20	SKATING PARTY	205	L. Gaulter	83	M-L	40"	white
10	21	GOLDEN PANTHER	203	R. Tasco	'00	M	34"	gold/bronze
20	22	HONKY TONK BLUES	202	Schreiner	88	M	37"	hyacinth blue
26	23	SEA POWER	197	K. Keppel	99	M	38"	ruffled blue
22	24	CLARENCE	191	L. Zurbrigg	91	M&Re	35"	white S; lt. blue
30	25	HAPPENSTANCE	190	K. Keppel	0	M	37"	pink
27	26	CROWNED HEADS	189	K. Keppel	97	M	38"	wisteria S, lt. blue F
23	27	IMMORTALITY	186	L. Zurbrigg	84	M&Re	30"	white
25	28	LACED COTTON	183	Schreiner	80	M-L	34"	white
36	29	SUPREME SULTAN	175	Schreiner	88	M-L	40"	yellow S; crimson F
31	30	STARRING	173	J. Ghio	0	ML	33"	white S; purp. black F

R2005	R2006	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
24	31	CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE	160	D. Niswonger	87	M	33"	pink & apricot
28	31	MARY FRANCES	160	L. Gaulter	72	M	38"	blue-orchid
33	33	SONG OF NORWAY	159	W. Luihn	79	M-L	38"	powder blue
29	34	VICTORIA FALLS	152	Schreiner	77	E-L	40"	blue; wht. spot on F
43	35	WORLD PREMIER	148	Schreiner	98	ML	37"	blue white S, dk. blue violet F w white rim
35	36	RUSTLER	147	K. Keppel	88	M	37"	gold-brown
32	37	BREAKERS	141	Schreiner	86	M	36"	medium blue
37	37	JURASSIC PARK	141	L. Lauer	95	EM	36"	yellow S. purple F
38	39	ACOMA	132	T. Magee	90	E	30"	pale blue/violet plicata
33	40	SUPERSTITION	131	Schreiner	77	M	36"	maroon black
55	41	BRIDE'S HALO	130	H. Mohr	73	E-L	36"	white edged yellow
40	42	POEM OF ECSTASY	124	B. Hager	97	M	36"	peach pink S, deep lavender F
42	43	POND LILY	121	Ev. Jones	95	M	38"	violet blended pink
63	43	STARSHIP ENTERPRISE	121	Schreiner	99	ML	36"	white S; cream F w magenta band
39	45	GOING MY WAY	118	J. Gibson	72	M	37"	wht. & violet plicata
41	45	FANCY WOMAN	118	K. Keppel	95	VE-EM	38"	lilac purple luminata
49	45	JOYCE TERRY	118	T. Muhlestein	74	M-L	38"	yellow & wht. yellow edge
49	48	DIABOLIQUE	113	Schreiner	97	ML	38"	garnet purple
52	49	BOOGIE WOOGIE	112	H. Nichols	93	M-L	36"	wht. S/F cloudy. violet
60	49	GAY PARASOL	112	Schreiner	74	M	35"	lav. wht./rose violet
61	51	ROMANTIC EVENING	109	J. Ghio	96	EL	36"	lilac S, dk red-purple F
51	52	AFTERNOON DELIGHT	108	R. Ernst	85	M	40"	tan-gold/ maroon
47	53	GYPSY ROMANCE	107	Schreiner	94	M-L	37"	violet raspberry
48	53	TOM JOHNSON	107	P. Black	96	E	35"	dark purple, red orange beards
58	53	DAZZLING GOLD	107	D.C. Anderson	81	M	29"	yell. veined brown
76	56	RARE TREAT	106	Schreiner	87	E-M	34"	blue & white plicata
44	57	CITY LIGHTS	104	M. Dunn	91	M	37"	blue/white spot on F
74	57	EPICENTER	104	J. Ghio	94	EM	42"	black cherry S, salmon F. edged black cherry
78	59	FOGBOUND	101	K. Keppel	98	M	40"	soft blue S, white F
45	60	DEVONSHIRE CREAM	100	G. Sutton	99	ML-VL	37"	cream white
69	60	MILLENNIUM FALCON	100	B. Kasperek	00	M	38"	blue bitone w. white streaks

R2005	R2006	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
54	62	SKY HOOKS	99	M. Osborne	80	M	36"	soft yellow; violet horns
63	63	SWINGTOWN	97	Schreiner	96	L	36"	mulberry claret
72	63	EVERYTHING PLUS	97	D. Niswonger	84	M	34"	blue-wht. & violet plic
69	65	CAMELOT ROSE	95	C. Tompkins	65	M-L	30"	lilac/burgundy
56	66	CODICIL	93	S. Innerst	85	M-L	32"	lt. blue black beard
	67	HEARTSIRING STRUMMER	91	B. Johnson	01	ML	40"	S wht w lav edges, F med violet, darker edges
62	68	LOCAL COLOR	90	K. Keppel	96	M	40"	dk. violet S, darker F
93	68	SWEET MUSETTE	90	Schreiner	86	M-L	37"	flamingo/rose
66	70	PERSIAN BERRY	87	L. Gaulter	77	M	35"	mulberry- lavender
74	70	OWYHEE DESERT	87	L. Pinkston	97	ML	36"	white S; rusty F w white rays, rim
58	72	TIGER HONEY	86	B. Kasperek	94	EM	38"	butterscotch- caramel w/ wht. & yel. streaks
76	72	COPPER CLASSIC	86	E. Roderick	75	L	30"	burnt orange
46	74	BEWILDERBEAST	85	B. Kasperek	95	M	30"	mauve streaked silver
67	74	BOYSENBERRY BUTTERCUP	85	L. Lauer	97	EM	37"	creamy yellow S, lavender F w lt rim
93	74	CORDOBA	85	J. Ghio	97	EML	36"	mango orange
95	74	DAUGHTER OF STARS	85	D. Spoon	'00	EM & RE	35"	purple w white edge
68	78	MYSTIQUE	84	J. Ghio	75	E-L	36"	lt. blue S; dk. blue F
99	78	SPICED TIGER	84	B. Kasperek	96	EM	31"	tan S; mahog F. wh. Streaks
83	80	TOTAL RECALL	83	B. Hager	92	EML & RE	34"	white edged yellow
96	80	RING AROUND ROSIE	83	R. Ernst	'00	M	35"	white sanded purple, yellow rim
57	82	BABBLING BROOK	80	K. Keppel	66	M	38"	light blue
86	82	QUEEN IN CALICO	80	J. Gibson	80	M	34"	apricot/red violet plic
90	82	BLACK TIE AFFAIR	80	Schreiner	93	M	36"	inky black
99	85	HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS	79	R. Duncan	0	M	32"	deep purple black, white spray
88	86	MIDNIGHT OIL	76	K. Keppel	98	M	36"	darker than eggplant
72	87	RINGO	73	G. Shoop	79	M	38"	white/grape edge
99	87	UNCLE CHARLIE	73	D. Spoon	97	ML	34"	pale lavender blue
71	89	BAYBERRY CANDLE	71	C. DeForest	69	M	36"	chart. gold & olive

R2005	R2006	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
80	89	CLASSIC LOOK	71	Schreiner	92	E-M	36"	white w/blue marks
90	89	MY GINNY	71	D. Spoon	'00	ML	30"	pink, purplish border on F
	92	HUCKLEBERRY FUDGE	70	J. Gibson	97	M	35"	S brown, F white/brown plic
80	92	CHASING RAINBOWS	70	B. Hager	98	M	32"	peach S, buff/lavender/blue blend F
86	92	DYNAMITE	70	Schreiner	97	M	37"	cardinal red
	95	KITTY KAY	69	K. Keppel	'02	ML	37"	ruffled pink
99	96	VIENNA WALTZ	68	K. Keppel	'00	M-VL	36"	milky orchid
	97	MERLOT	67	Schreiner	99	ML	37"	violet red blend
	98	SEAKIST	65	Schreiner	97	ML	38"	S white, F white w blue streaks
84	98	KILT LILT	65	J. Gibson	70	E-M	40"	tan-gold/ maroon plic.
85	98	BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY	65	Schreiner	97	ML	36"	lavender white S, plum F

New to the list: HEARTSTRING STRUMMER, HUCKLEBERRY FUDGE, KITTY KAY, MERLOT, SEAKIST

Runners-up: LUXOR GOLD (64), OCELOT (64), GNUS FLASH (63), WINTRY SKY (63), ALABASTER UNICORN (62), KEVIN'S THEME (62), MULLED WINE (62), PROUD TRADITION (62)

Dropped from the list: GNUS FLASH (63), KEVIN'S THEME (62), MULLED WINE (62), PROUD TRADITION (62), ZANDRIA (61), ANNA BELLE BABSON (59), FRINGE BENEFITS (56)

Visit the Symposium website: <http://irisarian.dynip.com/cgi-bin/symp.cgi> 

Detail of pattern in CONCESSION (Aitken)



Franciris® 2005

by E. Roy Epperson, North Carolina

One late April morning, while I was enjoying my usual early morning coffee, the telephone rang and I was asked if I would be interested in being a member of the judging panel for Franciris 2005. *Quelle surprise!* My answer? *Mais oui, certainement!!* So I arrived at Charles DeGaulle Airport on May 22 and was met by Mme Anne-Marie Chenais, President of S.F.I.B. (Société Française des Iris et Plantes Bulbeuses). The hospitality throughout the week was fantastic and began with a typical all-afternoon Sunday lunch with the organizers of the competition and some of the other judges. Then we toured the exhibit of iris *objets d'art*, paintings, and Vilmorin pressings of Japanese irises on display at the community center in Jouy-en-Josas, the site of the Franciris 2005 exhibitions and competition. There is an active program to re-establish the Fleur-de-Lys (*I. pseudacorus*) along the waterways in and around Jouy-en-Josas. Well-established clumps speak to their success.

The international judging panel consisted of Valeria Romoli (Italy), Gisela Dathe (Germany), Jérôme Boulon (France), Sylvain Ruaud (France), and me. I was elected president of the jury.

The competition plantings of tall bearded irises were at TECOMAH (l'École de l'Environnement et du Cadre de Vie). One of the schools of TECOMAH is the horticulture program. Students of this program planted and tended the plantings. These were 3-year clumps and the majority of them were in full bloom or came into bloom during the week of judging. There were 121 entries from 24 hybridizers in 7 countries. All of the judging and the awards ceremony were held in the planting and greenhouse areas.

Early Monday was spent in orientation to the French scale of points for tall bearded irises. The only difference from AIS is that the French scale breaks out 5 points for Distinctiveness and 5 points for aroma (*parfum*). AIS subsumes aroma under the 10 points for Distinctiveness. The remainder of the day was spent in the competition plantings. That evening we were treated to dinner at l'Orme Rond, the restaurant used as a training facility for the culinary students. An especial aperitif was

created for this dinner and was named '*Feu du Ciel*' (Fire of Heaven) after one of Richard Cayeux's tall bearded irises.

Tuesday morning was spent entirely in the plantings. A tour bus of German iris enthusiasts visited TECOMAH that morning. Manfred Beer, Tomas Tamberg, and Milan Blazek were among the visitors. I later had the pleasure of presenting the Warburton Medal to Milan on behalf of the Board of Directors of AIS. Gwen Henderson, President of the New Zealand Iris Society, was also present through the week of competition. That afternoon we visited the Monet garden at Giverny and received a guided tour by M. Vahé, the chief gardener. The spring color scheme for the major garden is white and blue. Many tall bearded irises were in bloom in whites, blues, and violets. One can spend many hours in this garden studying the plantings and absorbing the comfort and serenity of Monet's vision for his garden.

Wednesday was set aside as a day free from judging and included a tour of the Gien ceramics factory in the morning and following a wonderful lunch at Coulons, spending the afternoon at the Cayeux iris farm and plantings. Richard had just returned from London where the Cayeux exhibit was awarded a Silver Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. This was their first entry in that show. He led a tour through his selected and re-selected seedling plantings, commenting upon parentage and answering the many questions of the group. My notes indicate an orange seedling with the most intense saturation of color that I have yet seen; good approaches to a pink amoena; many seedlings from the FUTURISTE line; and many seedlings approaching bleu/blanc/rouge (red/white/blue). Richard permitted us to walk along with him to view seedlings in their first year of bloom. Then we were treated to a pleasant interlude with his wife and children at their home adjoining the commercial plantings. Several excellent clumps of Siberian irises were blooming here.

Thursday morning we visited St. Jean de Beauregard, a chateau with a very large walled vegetable garden that has been in cultivation for many years. It is laid out in four squares and the vegetable plots are bordered with magnificent plantings of annual and perennial flowers. There are many established plantings of tall bearded iris here. I was especially pleased to see a large clump of *dictamnus purpurea* in full bloom. I find it quite difficult to get established. The afternoon was spent in judging in the competition plantings. The panel spent approximately 20 clock hours in judging the plantings.

Final judging was accomplished on Friday morning. The panel then tabulated their ratings and reached decisions on the winning cultivars. The awards were announced at the presentation ceremony later that

morning. The awards are as follows:

1st Prize: BYE BYE BLUES (George Sutton)

2nd Prize: CHARIOTS OF FIRE (J.T. Aitken)

3rd Prize: GOT MILK (J.T. Aitken)

Best perfume: PRETTY EDGY (Barry Blyth)

Best blue bitone: FINNIGAN'S FINAGLING FACTOR (Robert Stetson II)

Best French variety: GWENNADEN (Gérard Madoré)

Prize des Villes Fleuries: CHARIOTS OF FIRE (J.T. Aitken)

Best variety voted by the horticulture students:


FINNIGAN'S FINAGLING FACTOR (Robert Stetson II)

Best variety voted by the press:

FINNIGAN'S FINAGLING FACTOR (Robert Stetson II)

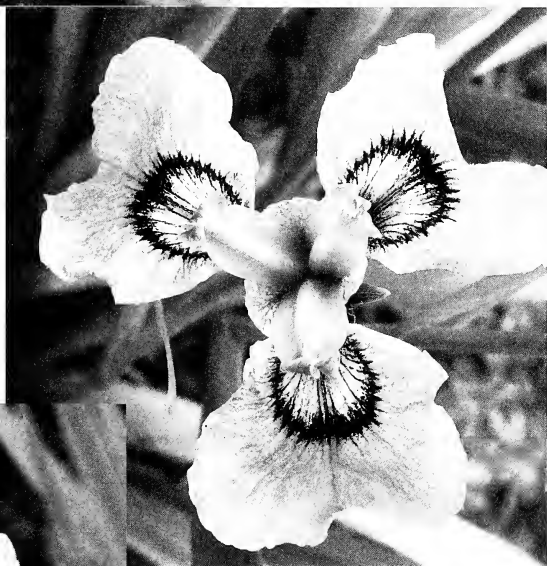
Best variety voted by the public: WORLD PREMIER (Schreiner)

Late that afternoon, we had the especial privilege of a visit to the privately owned arboretum of the Vilmorin family. Mme de Vilmorin graciously gave us a most informative guided tour. The family has been nurturing the arboretum for over 200 years. The cedars are magnificent. There are over 30 species of oak in the municipal arboretum. City landscape engineers study these specimens and others to determine which are best suited for the space and environment of cities and towns.

Before leaving for the airport to return home on Saturday afternoon, Jérôme Boulon and I conducted judges' training in the garden for several French irisarians and students. The organizers and sponsors of Franciris® 2005 were sufficiently pleased with the competition and related activities that the decision has been made to hold Franciris® 2007 in May 2007. TECOMAH will again host the plantings and the horticulture students will again plant and maintain the competition plantings. The beds are being re-located to a larger area which will permit judges to walk around each two-year planting for easy viewing and judging. Hybridizers are now submitting cultivars for competition for 2007. Make your plans to attend. I plan to! 



*“Eyeshadow
Irises”
from Japan*



All Shimizu hybrids:

Top: KYURYU

Above: OMOIDEGAWA

Left: KODO

All photos: Aitken

AIS Foundation Donations

Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for the research of the genus iris, administration of scholarships and the support of the AIS Library through the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund. This research includes the taxonomy as well as the cause of diseases and their cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to the top researchers and educational institutions throughout the world.

August 2005 – December 2005

Contributions in memory of:

Robert Bolton (GA)

Region 5, AIS

Don Clark (OR)

The Greater Portland Iris Society

Mildred Gallo (CA)

The Westbay Iris Society (CA)

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How can you make a contribution or memorial gift to the American Iris Society Foundation?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation. When sending a memorial gift, please include the name and address of the next-of-kin, so an acknowledgement card may be sent. Your tax-deductible donations should be sent to:

The American Iris Society Foundation

Roger P. Mazur Sec./Treas.

815 South 67th Ave.; Omaha, NE 68106-1115

AIS Contributions

compiled by Donna James, Donations Secretary

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HIPS (NY)	Gen
Hudson Valley Iris Society (NY)	Gen
Iris Society of Massachusetts (MA)	Gen
King County Iris Society (WA)	Gen
Pierce County Iris Society (WA)	Gen
Region 1 (MA)	Gen
Region 2 (NY)	Gen
Region 3 (PA)	Gen
Region 6 (IN)	Gen
Region 7 (KY)	Gen
Region 18 (MO)	Gen
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CPF – Classroom Project Fund


R&S – Research & Scholarship

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Donations to the AIS Fund Accounts should be made payable to: AIS, or the American Iris Society.

Mail to: Donna James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074-2354; (315)598-3346; <ron2don@alltel.net>

Be sure to identify clearly on a separate paper:

1. The recipient of the memorial or honor
2. The Active Fund to which you wish it to be credited
3. The name of person, persons, or organization donation
4. The address of person(s) to notify that a donation has been made 

AIS Board Business Digest

Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 4 & 5, 2005

NOTE: The Minutes Digest is a streamlined way of disseminating only the highlights of AIS Board meetings in readable font size without ties to AIS tradition or Roberts Rules of Order.

Full minutes are available on the AIS website, www.irises.org. On the Home page click on "Member Services" in the left hand column; next click on "AIS Information Central" for the Official Full Minutes. Other AIS business is available at this site as well.

Those without access to the web may obtain full minutes in hardcopy, free, by request through the AIS General Secretary.

President Jeanne Plank called to order the Fall Meeting of the AIS Board of Directors at 7 pm on Friday, November 4, 2005. A listing of attendees is included with the full minutes.

Full minutes of the St. Louis, Missouri meeting were approved as published on the AIS website. The Minutes Digest was approved as published in the October 2005 AIS Bulletin, page 104.

- President Plank announced that as the AIS General Secretary did not receive any additional nominations to the Board of Directors, the four published nominees (Louise Carson, John Ludi, George Sutton and Gary White) were elected by acclamation.
- Mike Lowe was approved as Parliamentarian for the meeting.
- Jean Morris was approved as Recording Secretary pro tem.
- Jill Bonino and Patricia Randall were welcomed to their new positions as AIS Treasurer and AIS General Secretary, respectively. These changes became official October 1, 2005 to accommodate the change of office following the September 30 retirement of Treasurer Jay Hudson.

The following interim email action was affirmed:

- The appointment of Jim & Janet Giles to the Exhibition Chair.
- The creation of a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to advise on all AIS scientific activity and the appointment of Gary White as Chairman of SAC.
- The division of the Slides Committee into three components under one heading, with Bill Mull continuing but as Co-Chair handling digital programs only.
- The creation of a Speakers Bureau managed by the Slides Committee
- The appointment of Avery Poling as Co-Chair to manage the Slide Programs and the new Speakers Bureau.

Reports:

- Bob Pries presented a summary of The Convention Membership Poll results. Using Bar charts and graphs to illustrate the range of responses to

various questions asked on the survey, Bob drew conclusions from the poll results for the Board to consider. (A summary of Bob's report can be found on page 71 of the October 2005 AIS Bulletin. His full report with accompanying graphs can be found on the AIS website.)

- President Plank announced the resignation of Bill Mull both as AIS Director and Slides Committee Chair. She requested and received Board approval for the appointment of Bob Pries (R18) to serve the remaining two years of Bill Mull's unexpired Director term.
- **Incoming Treasurer** Bonino submitted former Treasurer Jay Hudson's final report for the fiscal year 2004-2005. The full financial report appears elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Jay advised that difficult financial times would continue for AIS until additional changes are made to bring the budget in balance. He noted that despite the diligent work by Michelle Snyder, insurance coverage remains the single most serious drain on AIS finances. By changing brokers and returning to our two-year-prior carrier (Harford), Michelle was able to obtain a slight reduction in the premium. Jay pointed out that unlike our 2005 broker, our current broker allows the insurance premium to be paid on a monthly basis. This greatly aids cash flow, but does not reduce cost.

Representing the 2005 AIS Convention and the Greater St. Louis Iris Society, Riley Probst and Jim Morris presented the AIS with a check for \$2000. This donation, a portion of the surplus from the 2005 Convention, was designated for the AIS insurance fund. The Board expressed gratitude to the 2005 Convention sponsors for this generous contribution.

Editor Bruce Filardi presented the findings of the Bulletin Committee investigating the reduction of Bulletin costs. Not enough information was available for the Board to make any major decisions. Supplemental information will be presented to the Board via email. Printing fewer extra Bulletin copies will provide a modest cost reduction, therefore the Board approved printing only the number of Bulletins required to service the membership plus 150 additional copies per quarter. All excess Bulletins will be shipped to the Store Front, and the Surplus Bulletin program will be phased out.

Membership Secretary Tom Gormley reported that while AIS continues to bring in new memberships, new memberships have not been enough to offset non-renewals. The Board agreed that a Membership Committee should be formed for the sole purpose of investigating ways to hold and increase membership.

Jill Bonino suggested a renewal incentive for 1-year memberships. After discussion the Board agreed to enclose a special insert with the December renewal notices for single/dual annual memberships. Every annual membership that is renewed as a triennial membership will receive a free 2006 iris introduction (shipping included) from Convention guest beds, courtesy of the 2006 AIS Convention.

The meeting adjourned for the evening and the Board went into Executive Session. The meeting reconvened on Saturday, November 5 at 8 a.m. President Plank announced the **Honorary Awards** recipients. The

Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Terry Aitken, Nancy & Irv Pocklington and Shirley Pope. The Hybridizer Medal was awarded to Brad Kasperek and Marky Smith.

The Bee Warburton Medal was awarded to the Italian Iris Society, with individual personalized medals awarded to Dr. Margaret Cameron Longo, Prof. Sergio Orsi and Valeria Romoli.

Registrations/Recorders Mike and Anne Lowe reported an ever-increasing number of registrations, particularly from overseas, and the increasing peak-flow of numbers of registrations at this time of year. The Board approved the printing of 1,200 2005 R & Is. The Board also approved granting all officially sanctioned foreign associate registrars free access to www.irisregister.com.

Store Front Director John Ludi reported on stock inventory, postal increases and reprint needs. At John's request, the Board approved selling "damaged materials" from the AIS Store Front at a 50% discount at the 2006 National Convention.

Action on Standing Committee Reports were as follows:

Affiliates Committee Chair Brad Kasperek suggested raising affiliates fees. After a lengthy discussion the motion failed to carry. The Board did approve that the affiliate process remain at status quo. The Board also approved discontinuing the Affiliate Contest.

Calendar Chair Pro Tem Terry Aitken reviewed the price for printing the AIS 2007 Calendar. The Board authorized printing 3,500 AIS Calendars for 2007 using the same size, the same vendor and at the same price as 2006.

Convention Liaison Paul Gossett reported that a site for the 2010 AIS Convention was needed.

Donations Secretary Donna James asked that a key for identifying restricted fund codes be added to the Bulletin as an aid to better donor understanding.

Electronic Services Chair John Jones sent a report in his absence. After much discussion, John's recommendation that the Board authorize making the 1999 Checklist available for free electronic download effective immediately, failed to carry.

Exhibitions Chair for 2005 Roy Epperson reported a disputed affiliate show resulting from a serious breach of AIS rules governing entering and judging a show. By consensus the AIS Board agreed that it was valid for Roy to withdraw the show's accreditation and award no medals. The Board agreed that there will be no Nelson Cup awarded for 2005 due to a 5-way tie. The Board approved increasing the price of a packet of 200 show entry tags from \$11 to \$12. The Board also approved adding a shipping and handling fee of \$5 to all exhibition supply orders regardless of dollar amount. Existing exhibition supplies have been shipped to the new Exhibition Chairs, Jim & Janet Giles.

Judges Chair Judy Keisling received Board approval for advancement or reinstatement of Judges for 2006.

Judges' Handbook Revision Chair Roy Epperson proposed the following two highlighted changes, which were approved by the Board:

- J. T. Handbook Chapter 1, pg. 8 ... "The courses and tutoring sessions

must total 5 hours during each three-year period [**two (2) hours must be in-garden training**] and each judge must attend at least one judges' training school during the three-year period."

- J. T. Handbook Chapter 1, pg. 9 ... "Active Master Judges who are required to earn credit totaling three (3) hours during each three-year period, [One (1) hour must **be in-garden training.**]"

Avery Poling has assumed all duties of the **Slides/Programs Committee**. The Committee's new designation will be AIS Programs and will cover AIS Slide programs, Digital Programs and Speaker's Bureau.

Robins: Sun Boyce will serve as Chairman of both E-Robins and Paper Robins following the resignation of Libby Cross from the position of Robins Co-Chair for Paper Robins.

RVP Counselor Louise Carson reported a situation in Region 24 where a successor could not be found for the RVP completing three-years of service. The Board approved the re-appointment of the existing RVP, Janice Tate, as RVP Pro Tem for Region 24 for 2006, with the proviso that she will not be eligible for another consecutive term and that the leadership of Region 24 be so notified. The remaining 23 RVPs appointments were approved for 2006.

Scientific Advisory Committee Chairman Gary White reported the organization of his committee, composed of 11 individuals with scientific backgrounds. The group formulated a mission statement, and chose five focus areas for initial consideration. The Board endorsed the Iris Conservation Policy Statement recommended by the Scientific Advisory Committee. The text of the policy statement may be found accompanying the full minutes on the AIS webpage.

Responding to a proposal from Kitty Loberg that the AIS conduct a **photo contest**, the Board authorized an annual photo contest chaired by Kitty Loberg, who will work out the details, and report back to the board electronically.


The annual elections of **Officers** and the appointments approvals of **Administrative Officers** resulted in no changes.

The appointments to **Standing Committee Chairs** can be found at the front of this Bulletin under the heading "Chairs of Standing Committees." The 2006 appointment list will be printed in the full minutes for this meeting, available on the website, or obtained by contacting the AIS General Secretary's office.

Treasurer Bonino reviewed the **Proposed Budget** for the fiscal year 2005-2006 with changes that had been added and subtracted as they came up during discussion throughout the meeting. Although reductions were accomplished, a balanced budget could not be reached. The Board approved, with one abstention, that the proposed budget be accepted in principle, with the caveat that it is based on estimates and actual figures for the year may be more positive.

Meeting dates for the 2006 Convention in Portland, OR were announced. Chairman John Ludi described the convention's optional tours and special features.

President Plank thanked Bill Dougherty, Barbara Sautner and The Iris Society of Minnesota for their gracious hospitality in hosting this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. 

AIS SLIDE RENTALS AND DIGITAL PROGRAMS

The American Iris Society Slide Set Menu

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. If you want to create an interesting and educational meeting, an AIS slide set may provide the atmosphere you desire, and stimulate your chapter's interest. If you want a current list or need suggestions for your program please e-mail me. Requests for slide sets should be made well in advance.

To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.

If you have an emergency situation and need slides immediately: **CALL ME!**

Only one set is allowed per request date. Slides are to be returned by Priority Mail the day after viewing.

Cost: The rental fee is \$10, payable to AIS, and mailed to the address below. Affiliate Chapters are entitled to one free set per year.

Avery Poling

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(623) 815-3503 <AZbeeman@aol.com>

*Iris*es of: 1980s, 1990, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

Bearded Irises

Beardless Irises

AIS National Conventions of: 2001, 2002, 2003

The Iris Family

Trivia

The following programs are available for purchase (\$10) in CD form:

New Introductions for: 2003, 2004

Conventions: 2003, 2004

The Iris Family

Iris Trivia (Not available on CD): This is a small set with questions that can be used for fun and informative meetings. It takes about an hour (per set average), using the slides, asking the questions and getting audience response. E-mail for further details.

The Family Iris (Available as Slide Program or CD): This set is an introduction to the world of iris. It shows the different classes of bearded iris and the different species of iris. It can be used for all levels of viewers, new to experienced iris growers. Great for garden club programs.

To rent slide sets or to purchase CDs, contact:

Avery Poling; 17210 N. Calico Drive; Sun City, AZ 85373-2202

(623) 815-3503; AZbeeman@aol.com

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

The World of Irises

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. \$15.00
Quantity discounts: 20% off for 10 or more / 40% off for 100 or more

Handbook for Judges and Show Officials

New release! Sixth Edition ©1998. \$15.00

Basic Iris Culture. Booklets. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs or shows. \$1.50 ea., or 25 for \$15.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas

Convention Handbook. Free

AIS Bulletins: Back Issues

AIS Bulletins (current year and last year): \$5.00 each domestic/\$6.50 each overseas
Older issues (not all available): \$2.00 each domestic/\$4.50 each overseas

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Registrations and Introductions: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004.

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Years 1984, 1985, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999.

Clearance Sale: \$2.00 each!

View Before You Buy!

The official AIS Website now has photos of several of the Storefront sales items, so you can see what they look like.

Go to: www.irises.org

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Solid Silver, 1½ inches across. Only 500 struck. \$25.00

75th Anniversary Bulletin. \$2.00 domestic/\$4.50 overseas

Bronze 50th Anniversary Medals

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2006 Iris Calendar

\$6.00 each, or package of 10 for \$33.00 domestic/\$40.00 international

Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)

\$4.00, 1 pack

\$10.00, 3 packs

\$25.00, 10 packs

RVP Pins \$32 (outgoing RVPs only)

Publication now available through the AIS Storefront:

The Louisiana Iris, The Taming of a Native American Wildflower, Second Edition,
\$30.00 (includes S&H).

AIS can now accept VISA & Mastercard (sorry, no other charge cards) for Storefront orders (minimum order: \$10.00). When charging your order, please include card type and number, expiration date and phone number.

Prices include postage and handling. The Storefront ships via media mail.

Priority, overnight and UPS shipment charges paid by customer. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society, or include charge card information. Send order to:

John and Kay Ludi

P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055; (503) 826-8808; <aisstorefront@juno.com>

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check for \$7.50 to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Ron James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074; <ron2don@alltel.net> Rental fee \$10.00. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Japanese Irises.

Louisiana: Earline Sudduth, 4551 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212; (601)372-8586; <EMSud@aol.com>; \$10 check to SLI.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Siberian Irises.

Pacific Coast Native: Contact Damon Hill, 4613 Maddock Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472-9768. Rental fee \$7.50 to SPCNI. 2 sets available, species or hybrids.

Rebloomers: Contact George Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; <info@suttoniris.com>. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Siberian Irises.

Species: Several sets available. Order from Mike Zuraw, 1 Pondview Drive, Bethel, CT 06801-1266; <mjzuraw@aol.com>. Check for \$10.00 to SIGNA.

Spurias: To order, contact Riley Probst, 418 Van Buren, Saint Louis, MO 63122; (314) 822-2485; <rprobst02@earthlink.net>. Check for \$10.00 to Spuria Iris Society.

AIS Bulletin Back Issues

two years or older; not all issues available

\$7.00 25 Bulletins \$10.00 50 Bulletins

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AIS Bulletin Ad Rates

"Without advertising, a terrible thing happens...nothing!"

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: August 15 (October issue); November 15 (January issue), February 15 (April issue), May 15 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2½ inch wide.

\$44.00	1 15/16 inch
\$60.00	1 1 15/16 inch
\$80.00	2 15/16 inch

Display Advertising

Black & White:

\$45.00	1 inch	4¼ x 1
\$70.00	¼ page	4¾ x 1⅞ (wide), or 2⅞ x 3¾ (tall)
\$100.00	½ page	4¾ x 3¾ (wide), or 2⅞ x 7½ (tall)
\$175.00	Full page	4¾ x 7½

Color:

\$135.00	½ page, interior page.
\$225.00	Full page, interior page.
\$200.00 each	Full page, interior page, 4 consecutive issue discount.
\$350.00	Full page, inside back cover.
\$350.00	Full page, inside front cover.
\$450.00	Full page, outside back cover.

Please note new advertising rates, effective for the Bulletin of April, 2005. Contact George & Margaret Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; (559) 784-5107; <info@suttoniris.com>

Bulletin of the AIS Shopping Section

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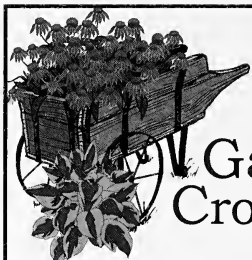
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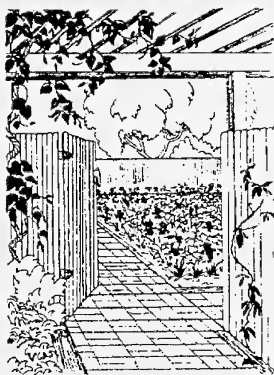


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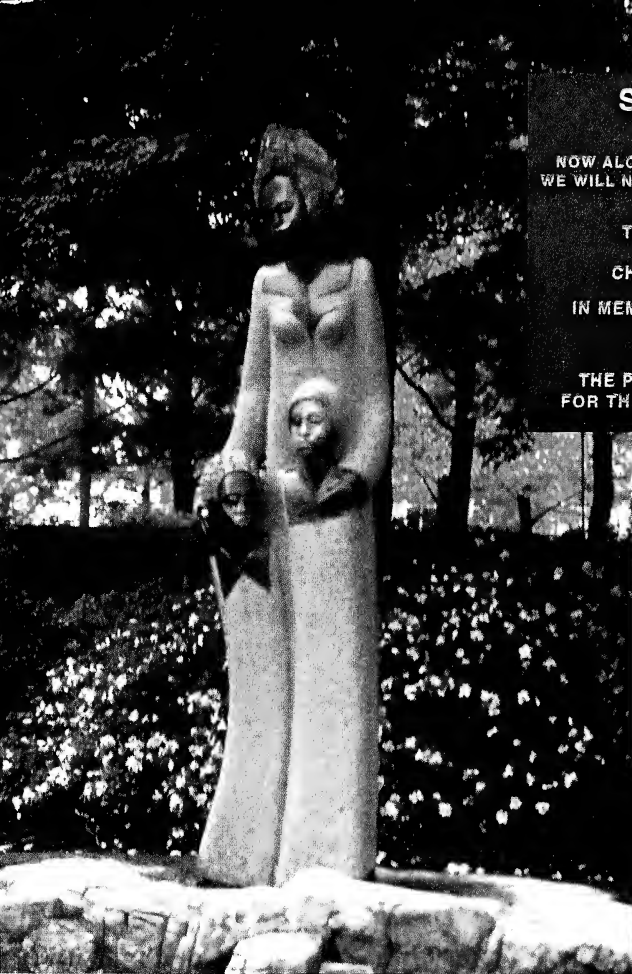
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Reblooming Iris Society	7.00	18.00	8.00	21.00
Society for PCNs	8.00	20.00	10.00	23.00
Species Iris Group	9.00	24.00	10.00	25.00
Dwarf Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	10.00	24.00	12.00	30.00
Aril Society International	10.00	28.00	13.50	33.50
Society for Louisiana Irises	13.00	32.00	16.00	44.00

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President's Message

by Jeanne Clay Plank, California

April brings spring showers, iris flowers and iris shows. It also brings the April *Bulletin*. April is the time of year when our appeal to new members is at its greatest, so it makes sense that the April President's message traditionally encourages Irisarians to go forth and "member."

The influx of new memberships each spring is encouraging. Our Membership Secretary reports the addition of a goodly number of new members every year. This is good! His report also points out that despite new member enrollments, overall membership numbers are gradually trending downward, a trend experienced by many types of organizations and service clubs throughout the country. This is not good. This is troubling. Of memberships dropped at renewal time, the greatest percentage comes from the new (1st year) member show-and-sale recruits. Records provide further evidence that as aging AIS members drop out, new recruits are not converting into established members in numbers enough to maintain our strength and vigor.

New AIS members are important, if for no other reason than that each one has the potential to become an "established" member. The new member who feels that s/he is enjoying a special value by being a continuing part of an organization, will renew and continue to renew. Converting new members into established members should be considered a primary goal throughout our society.

Modern technology and today's lifestyles have brought sweeping changes in the way Americans go about pursuing their interests. Ready-to-retire computer-oriented Baby Boomers and their electronically-wired twenty-something offspring are the potential Irisarians for the now and for the not-to-distant future. We need to understand how to engage these electronic-age folks today if we want enjoy their involvement and support tomorrow.

A Membership Advisory Group formed at the 2005 AIS National Fall



Jeanne Clay Plank

Meeting has the task of exploring creative, innovative and traditional ways for attracting, and equally important, for sustaining existing members.

Most new members first develop impressions and learn about the AIS at the local level. Local membership experiences impact AIS membership renewals. I encourage local groups to spend a portion of a near-future general meeting (ideally, before the Spring “rush” of new recruits) in an audience participation discussion on what can be done – as individuals, as a local group, as part of the AIS, – to bring new members into the AIS community. Questions to consider might be: At membership meetings are we filling up prime time with incidental business matters that could be delivered other ways (newsletters, email, handouts) rather than featuring the program over the business? Has innovative fun gone out of growing, showing and sharing irises because we have developed a mind-set on how we conduct our activities? (Ex.: It has always been done this way; we tried that once and it didn’t work.) Do we make new members feel alien, awkward or comfortable during their novice period? And, perhaps most importantly, have we undervalued the use of the Internet and email as excellent tools for reaching and keeping members current on the activities of the club and the region?

Your suggestions on how to reach and especially about how to retain members in this technological age will be welcomed. Please contact me, preferably by e-mail. I will faithfully relay your suggestion to the Membership Advisory Group. 🌸




Editor Filardi flanked by Slovakian hybridizers Anton Mego (left) and Ladislav Muska, at the Mego home in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, September '05.

Editor's Message

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

Once again this month, I'll keep my Editor's Message short, as my "words of wisdom" will appear elsewhere in this issue. (Depending on space, there will be an update on further problems with importing rhizomes, and possibly a longer article on my experience as a judge at the Concorso dell'Iris in Florence in 2005.)

I would like to thank Rita Gormley for making available to us several of the beautiful photos of Japanese Irises which appeared throughout the January issue of the *Bulletin*. Without her help, it would have been a much less beautiful issue! 

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Youth Views

by Cheryl Deaton, California

The Youth Ambassador Program

"Are we there yet?" How often have you heard that question? Is it due to impatience, excitement, boredom, or a combination of all three? That is the way I am feeling about the American Iris Society youth programs. I have so many ideas, but it takes time, resources and willing adults to implement them. One of my ideas is a Youth Ambassador Program.

We all know how expensive attending a regional event can be, especially if your region is large. There is the cost of the hotel, transportation to the event, and of course the registration for the event. There are also additional costs involved, such as additional meals, photography expenses, etc. Multiply this by 3 or 4 to attend a National Convention! Sometimes, the costs are even higher. Many times these expenses are just too much to allow a youth member to attend.

Just what is a youth ambassador? A youth ambassador is a member of the American Iris Society, chosen by their region to be a representative at the AIS National Convention. It is up to the individual regions to decide the criteria necessary to implement this program. Hopefully, the region would award their representative enough money to attend the AIS National Convention and help defray expenses, whether it is paying for the full registration, a few days of hotel costs, or travel expenses. I know that many regions are small, and funding an event such as this would be prohibitive, but perhaps members of those regions would help to sponsor ONE youth member with donations from each affiliate. In this way, everyone would share the costs. If your region has 501c(3) status, you could start a fund to honor a longtime member and place the donations into that fund. At this time, I know that Region 14 sponsors two or more youth members with scholarships in order for these youth members to attend their regional meeting. Region 15 pays the cost of registration for youth members to attend their regional meetings, and has the LaVerne Conrad Youth Award. I know many other regions have their own youth awards. Region 18 has

an award that mirrors the Clarke Cosgrove Award for Youth Achievement in its requirements; it is called the Stanley-Goodman Youth Award. Region 22 has the M.D. Faith Award.

Each region could decide how to choose their representative. Perhaps it would be an essay contest such as "Why I Would Be An Excellent Region Representative", or nomination by an adult member: I nominate Youth Member _____ because he/she has been such a wonderful addition to our club, helping at meetings, sales and shows." Maybe you've attended another club's meeting and been impressed by a youth member. There are endless possibilities. It can be as simple or as complicated as you wish to make it. Region officers, including the affiliate Presidents, would make the choice.

You could give your Youth Ambassador disposable cameras to take to the Convention. CDs can be made from these disposable cameras with which the Youth Ambassador could design a program that they would present to the different clubs individually or at a Region meeting, as a condition of their convention attendance. The Youth Ambassador could write an article for the Region newsletter/*AIS Bulletin*. Seeing an event from the perspective of a youth member could be very interesting, especially since we all know that adults attending an event have different insights into what occurred.


This idea is in the infant stages – many questions need to be addressed. I hope you will seriously think about this idea. Take it to your region/affiliates meetings, talk about it, express the pros and cons. One of the key questions might be who would be responsible for the youth member (parent, guardian, RVP), and how would they pay for their expenses? How many days would they attend? – garden tours only?

Portland would be a wonderful opportunity for a youth member to attend. If you know of an AIS Youth member who will be attending the National Convention, perhaps the Region could express their support by partly funding the youth member's trip in exchange for a program by the youth member. Clubs could hold bake sales, car washes, or even get a local business to help with funding. Just think about it, that's all I'm asking.

I would like to see some type of program for a Youth Ambassador in EVERY region. We need to get these youth members more involved at the Regional level, attending Spring or Fall meetings, holding club offices, helping on committees, which in turn will help them to get involved at the National level. The more involved they become while youth members, the chances improve that they will remain involved as adults. Youth members are the future of AIS! Without them we will be nothing but an aging organization going downhill fast.

Let me know what you think about this. Share your ideas, even the negative ones. We do not have to have the same program in every region. Just as we are different, so are the affiliates and regions that make up the American Iris Society. What works for one club may not be good for another club. Give my idea a chance!

Are we there yet?" No, but I hope we will be someday soon.

As always, you can contact me at <region15kids@hotmail.com> or my home address at: 27218 Walnut Springs Avenue, Canyon Country, CA 91351-3314. 

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SLI Convention, 2006

The Society for Louisiana Irises will hold its 2006 convention April 6-9 at the Arcadiana Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana. For more information, contact Jim Leonard at (337) 232-0823.

Section Happenings

by Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant

The AIS *Bulletin* editor put out the word that he was moving the deadline of the April issue up a month and for us to respond as soon as possible. When you haven't yet seen the current issue, it does make it a bit more challenging to make your column as topical as possible. But here we go! I trust you will enjoy the information presented and that you will continue to respond to me with important Section news.

Starting with the wee ones ... The Dwarf Iris Society reports that BLUE ASH (Willott 01), HM 2003, has been voted as their DIS Display Garden popularity winner for the second year in a row. This delightful six inch MDB is white with a medium blue spot pattern. The DIS *Newsletter*, November 2005, has an excellent article by Anner Whitehead about the Grapes Sisters, *Vivian & Hazel Grapes: Eden Keeping in the Great American Desert.* These two sisters were prominent in DIS in the 1950s and they lived in Big Springs, Nebraska, between the Missouri River and the Rockies, an area we know today as the Great Plains. DIS also reports an interesting anomaly in that the 2005 AIS Caparne-Welch Medal winner LITTLE DRUMMER BOY (Willott 97) did not place in the top 50 in the DIS 2005 Symposium, while CWM first runner-up ARICAN WINE (Kasperek 99) has placed first in the Symposium for the second year in succession! Very odd.

Moving up in size to the Medians ... There are no anomalies here. The Median Iris Society 2005 Symposium winners are: CAT'S EYE (Black 02, SDB); STARWOMAN (M. Smith 98, IB); BANGLES (L. Miller 95, MTB); CRANAPPLE (Aitken 95, BB); and a tie between OMAR'S GOLD (Boswell 96, Arilbred Median) and OMAR'S STITCHERY (Boswell 00, AM). Medal winner STARWOMAN, a true star performer, easily won the Sass Medal and the MIS Symposium too.

Then there are the Californicae species ... President Richard Richards of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris (PCI) speculates in the Fall 2005 *PCI Almanac* about directions for future progress of PCIs.

He says, "One direction is to expand the geographical range ... The other is to expand the temporal range." He reports progress in the former with some PCIs being grown in Michigan, Ohio, Idaho, and North Carolina among other states. They are also grown in England, Australia, New Zealand and Switzerland. Work is also in progress to extend the temporal range with fall rebloom and almost everbloom reported in some hybridizers' seedling patches.


As to Siberians ... The Society for Siberian Irises Popularity Poll winner for the second consecutive year is ROARING JELLY (Schafer/Sacks 92). Barbara Schmieder reports a low vote turnout but good distribution in thirteen states, plus Canada, Belgium, Lithuania and Sweden. SSI president Roy Epperson reports that the 2006 Cumulative Checklist of Siberian Irises will be available at the 2006 mini-convention in Portland, Oregon. In the Fall 2005 issue of *The Siberian Iris*, check out Calvin Helsley's article on retro-Siberians (forms that more resemble the species than the typical modern hybrid) entitled *Back to the Future with Siberian Irises*."

And Louisiana irises ... The January AIS *Bulletin* column on Section Happenings has a report on some of the damage of Hurricane Katrina. The Fall 2005 SLI *Newsletter* (to be renamed the *Fleur de Lis* for the Spring 2006 issue) has more. Before and after pictures of Louisiana irises by Patrick O'Connor in New Orleans are sobering. He grows irises in two community gardens in the Jazz City. Salt residue and other damage are clearly shown, but some new growth is encouraging. Salinity tolerance of species and LA hybrids will be observed throughout the Gulf in 2006. O'Connor's Metairie home was also flooded. In another SLI *Newsletter* article *Growing SLI: Our Evolving Society and Its Future Trajectory*", O'Connor has made an interesting presentation about the reality of the nationalization of SLI and how it has evolved to an organization where nearly two-thirds of its members now live **outside** rather than within the traditional Louisiana/Texas area.

On to the Japanese irises ... The 2005 SJI Popularity Poll winner was DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (White 00). The 2005 mini-convention in Dover, Delaware, had its master planting at Delaware State University. DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE was voted both overall favorite guest iris and best out-of-region iris. Favorite in-region was SIMPLY STATED (D. Hager R.04). Continuing the run of awards for John White's JI irises, his DIRIGO RED ROCKET (R. 00) was awarded Region One's Beatrice A. Warburton Medal for 2005. Lynn Markham reports that the medal is awarded each year to the New England-bred iris receiving the most points in voting by Region One's accredited AIS Judges. Incidentally, DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE

won this medal in 2003! The SJI Convention Show best specimen was the historic JI SNOWY HILLS (Marx 54), a white self. Catherine Button reported that the mini-convention also featured an Ikebana display by members of the South Jersey Sogetsu school led by master instructor Mariko Ono. SJI plans their next mini-convention for 2008 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In closing, although the AIS Youth are not a "Section" and do have their own column compiled and written by Cheryl Deaton, they are just as important. Deaton edits their very newsy publication *The Iris Fan*, in its sixteenth year of existence. If you have kids in AIS, you have seen it. If not, try to borrow it and read about iris activities from a youth's viewpoint. It is very encouraging and to quote Bill McVicker of Region 22, "The youths are the seedlings of our Society."


Remember to place me on your group's mailing list and contact me with any newsworthy information at morrisje1@aol.com. 

AIS Insurance

by Michelle Snyder, Insurance Chair

For those of you who do not already know, our Liability Insurance is now with a new insurance company. If Certificates of Insurance are needed, I have made it much easier to obtain the needed documents.

To obtain Certificates of Insurance go to www.irises.org/insurance.htm and click on the text Request for Certificates of Insurance. Download the form, complete it as necessary, and fax it to the number shown.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either (818) 352-7018, or my email address of sammygiz@aol.com. 

International News

by Anna & David Cadd, Editors caddsir@comcast.net

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 'HYBRIDS & IRIS'

FLORENCE, ITALY

MAY 5th-6th-7th 2006

Plant hybrids are an interesting evolutionary link of the species but they are also the most frequent source of many taxonomic problems. Natural and experimental hybrids are continually being investigated all over the world. Genus *Iris* L. is rich in natural and experimental hybrids.

The aim of this International Symposium, organized by the Società Italiana dell'Iris (S.I.D.I.), in collaboration with several Universities and the City of Florence, is to collect information on seed plant hybrids and the methods and techniques used in their investigation from researchers, hybridizers and Iris Societies world wide.

The first day of the Symposium will be devoted to seed plant hybrids, the second to *Iris* and their natural hybrids, the third to experimental hybrids, mainly of *Iris*.

The 'Hybrids and Iris' International Symposium will take place in Florence, where every year the 'International Competition for the best bearded iris experimental hybrid' is held, to celebrate its 50th anniversary that occurs in May 2006.


Following is an abstract of one of the topics to be discussed:

ANCESTORS AND NATURAL HYBRIDS OF SOME *IRIS* SPECIES, SUBG. *IRIS* (IRIDACEAE), PRESENT IN ITALY

By Maretta Colasante, Dipartimento di Biologia Vegetale, Università "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy

The large genus *Iris* L. is subdivided into subgenera, sections and series (Mathew, 1981). A considerable number of *Iris* species is present in Italy, mainly bearded Irises. Many iris populations of subgenus *Iris* section *Iris* are taxonomically

complex, with natural hybrids and some species of hybrid origin (allopolyploids). Populations analysis in the fields is of basic importance to point out the species variation and the natural hybrid origin of some of them. Comparison of distribution, phenology, morphology, karyology and chemistry data of these Irises helps to clarify their relationships. A study of natural hybrids is therefore important for understanding the taxonomy of this group but also the taxonomy of the other subgenera, sections and series of the genus.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Maretta Colasante at <maretta.colasante@uniroma1.it> or <maretta.colasante@tin.it> 



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Westward Ho to Portland

by John Ludi, Convention Chair, Reigning Iris 2006

Within a couple of months, irisians from around the world will be in the Pacific Northwest for the largest AIS National Convention since 1994. The Reigning Iris 2006 Convention Committee has put together an event that attendees will not forget. Where else can you find acres and acres of our favorite flower? At the time this article was written, there are rooms available at the backup hotels. Space is still available at all convention functions to include the Welcome and Awards banquets. Information pertaining to the convention schedule of events, hotels and registration can be found on our web site www.ais2006.com. This is one event you do not want to miss! We are looking forward to seeing you in Portland in May. 🌸

***The American Iris Society is happy
to announce the presentation of the
following Special Honors for 2005:***

AIS Distinguished Service Medal:

Terry Aitken
Nancy & Irv Pocklington
Shirley Pope

AIS Hybridizer's Medal:

Marky D. Smith
Brad Kasperek


The Bee Warburton Medal:

The Italian Iris Society:
Margaret Cameron Longo
Valeria Pallesi Romoli
Sergio Orsi

Request for Bearded Iris

AIS Convention: Lone Star State 2008

The Iris Society of Austin will host the American Iris Society Convention in the year 2008. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of bearded irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises.

1. Up to four rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from September 1 through October 30, 2006.
3. Guest irises shipped by United States Postal Service, USPS, to: Carol Canfield; PO Box 634; Spicewood, TX 78669
4. Guest irises shipped by United Parcel Service, UPS, to: Carol Canfield; 119 Crest Drive; Spicewood, TX 78669
5. The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list.
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address
 - b. Name or seedling number of the variety
 - c. Type of iris (TB, BB, IB, AB, SDB, etc.)
 - d. Height, color, and bloom season (EML)
 - e. Year of introduction (if introduced)
6. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairperson no later than December 1, 2007.
7. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2008 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to the garden owner and the rest to the Iris Society of Austin plant sale. All official guest plants will be returned freight paid, except for foreign addresses.
8. The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.
9. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairperson will be listed in the Convention Booklet.
10. E-mail for Carol Canfield: carolcc5@yahoo.com 

The AIS 2006 Photo Contest

Share and present your most stunning, breathtaking pictures of irises, gardens, and people involved with irises. This contest is open to everyone and is free to enter. The winning photo of each category will be published in the AIS *Bulletin* and on the AIS web site. **The winner of each category will receive a 2006 introduction from a Region 13 hybridizer.** The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runners-up in each category will receive a 2004-2005 introduction.

How to Enter:

Simply fill out the entry form and send it with your photos to AIS at the address below. You may submit up to five photos in this year's contest. The deadline for submissions to the 2006 Photo Contest is **August 31, 2006.**

Entries will be selected and judged in six (6) categories:

1. Irises used in landscaping.
2. Irises in the garden.
3. Irises with a person or people.
4. Close up of an iris or irises.
5. Photos of events or shows (including arrangements).
6. Youth, any photo with irises.

Please do not send any photo smaller than 4 x 6 inches, nor larger than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 (half page). If you are using a digital camera, it is suggested that you take your photos in 360dpi or higher resolution, and we ask that you print and submit your photos on photo paper. Please avoid writing or labeling on the back of the photo, unless to identify a variety or person.

A panel of three judges will judge photos received and their decisions will be final. At the discretion of the judges, photos not selected in the current contest may be held for further consideration in future contests. Please provide AIS with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photos returned. Photos will otherwise not be returned and may be destroyed if not selected.

Where to send your photos and entry:

The American Iris Society Photo Contest, c/o Kitty Loberg, 1900 Mountain View Lane, Redwood Valley, CA 95470. Send inquiries to <loberg@adelphia.net>.

Entry Form:

Photo caption name(s) and names of persons in photos, if any (for reference purposes):

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

#5 _____

YOUTH: If this is a youth entry, please tell us your age: _____

I am the person who took the photographs(s) enclosed, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party. By entering the photo contest I am hereby authorizing The American Iris Society to use winning photographs in publications, in brochures, on the Internet, and for other promotional uses.

Signature _____

Name _____


Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (____) _____

(Receipt of photos will be acknowledged by email. Please provide a SASE if you want a receipt by mail.) 

AIS Calendar 2006

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2006: MAY 22-27

Portland, OR

Chair:

John Ludi

35071 SE Highway 211

Boring, OR 97009

(503) 668-9230

kludi@juno.com

Headquarters:

Red Lion Hotel on the River

900 N. Hayden Island Drive

Portland, OR 97217

(800) 733-5466

2007: APRIL 30 – MAY 5

Oklahoma City, OK

Chair:

F. W. McVicker

Route 3 – Box 10-K

Kingfisher, OK 73750

(405) 375-3115

fwm3115@peoplepc.com

Headquarters:

Oklahoma City Marriott

3233 Northwest Expressway

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

(405) 842-6633

2008: APRIL 14-19

Austin, TX

Chairs:

Jim Landers

(254) 773-5017

jimlanders43@hotmail.com

and

Pat Byrne

(281) 391-6190

patb@grandecom.net

Headquarters:

Omni Austin Hotel at

Southpark

4140 Governor's Row

Austin, TX 78744

(512) 383-2621

2009:

Kansas City, MO

Chair:

Debora Hughes

3395 Utah Road

Wellsville, KS 66092

(785) 883-4737

dhughes936@grapevine.net

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2006: NOVEMBER 3-5

Kansas City, MO

Chair:

Judy Keisling

12119 A Highway

Liberty, MO 64068

(816) 792-1848

keisling@swbell.net

Headquarters:

Clarion Kansas City Airport

Hotel

11832 NW Plaza Circle

Kansas City, MO 64153

(816) 464-2345

2007: OCT 31 – NOV 2

Raleigh-Durham, NC

Chair:

Susan Grigg

105 Trotters Ridge Road

Raleigh, NC 27614

(919) 870-8345

smgrigg@bellsouth.net

Headquarters:

Hilton Raleigh-Durham

4810 Page Road

RTP, NC 27709

(919) 941-6000

2008: OCT 31 – NOV 2ND

Tulsa, OK

Chair:

Paul W. Gossett

129 East 33rd Place

Tulsa, OK 74105-2542

(918) 742-1204

pwgossett@juno.com

HAROLD L. STAHLY

8343 Manchester Dr., Grand Blanc MI 48439

**2006 INTRODUCTIONS OF EVELYN ROBERTS
AND HAL STAHLY**

AFFIRMATIVE (Stahly '06) TB, M, 36". This is a warm white self; beards are yellow in the throat, and the outer half is light blue. There is no hint of blue or violet anywhere else in the flower. Form is impeccable and beautifully ruffled. There is perfect branch placement and 8 to 10 buds per stalk. Sdlg. 97-4: (((Ivy League x River Patrol) x (Irish Lullaby x Barcelona)) x Frosted Sapphire) X High Five \$40.00

BEADED QUIVER (Robarts '06) TB SA, M, 39". Standards, falls, and style arms are all a medium light orange (RHS 168D); beards are bright orange (33B) and the tips are enhanced with 1-inch flounces that are the medium light orange of the flower. The flower color is one not usually seen in flounced irises. The flowers are well formed, ruffled, and on well branched stalks. Light fragrance. Sdlg. 97-40 . . \$40.00

FOLLOW YOUR DREAM (Stahly '06) TB, M, 38". Very bright gold standards top sparkling white falls that are sharply edged the color of the standards. Beards are golden yellow. Falls are wide, ruffled and with light lace. Looking at this flower one thinks that "this is the stuff that dreams are made on" although Shakespeare coined the expression in a different context. Sdlg. 0012: Halo In Orange X (Sun King x Marmalade) \$40.00

SAFE KEEP (Robarts '06) TB SA, M, 38". Standards and falls are bright light yellow (RHS 161B); styles are the same color. Beards are orange in the throat to yellow at the outer tip, terminating in half inch bearded horns that are deep blue. Flowers are well formed and ruffled, and well placed on good stalks. Light fragrance. Sdlg. 93-33 \$40.00

Please add \$5.00 for shipping

Open Letter to USDA/APHIS

from Bruce Filardi, Editor

Att: Alan S. Green, Executive Director
Plant Protection & Quarantine
APHIS (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service)
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

Dear Mr. Green:

I am writing this for inclusion in the April '06 issue of the *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*, in hopes that both my frustrating and upsetting experience, and your reply, will help avoid similar disasters in the future.

As background information: I contacted your office to ask about requirements for the importation of iris rhizomes. Your office sent me a form to fill out – an application for an import permit, which I promptly completed and mailed back to them. However, when they received my application, they replied that I did *not* need an import permit! I stress that your office told me that *irises fit into the category of "bulbs and other underground parts ... which do not require a formal permit for entry ... but are subject to (1) inspection and (2) treatment if plant pests of quarantine significance are found."* Your office included a copy of USDA/APHIS circular # PPQ Q.37-3.

In August of 2005, a friend in Germany sent me approximately \$200 worth of iris rhizomes. They were intended for my own garden, but, as part thereof, they would also be on display at the 2006 National Convention of the American Iris Society, which will be attended by approximately 1000 people from throughout the world. Included in the shipment were rhizomes of several extremely rare irises.

In November of 2005, I received the original shipment box which had come from Germany, containing nothing but a "Mail Interception Notice" (PPQ Form 287), above the signature of Shannon Jarman, PPQ Officer 4457 at the San Francisco inspection facility, with reference number of SFO 102705.

I immediately called the San Francisco office and spoke to the supervisor there. At best, I can describe her attitude as "snippy". She was certainly lacking in appropriate skills of courtesy when dealing with a taxpayer; she was also insufficiently informed about the case, despite the

fact that the Mail Interception Notice should have been on file, and she seemed woefully ignorant of USDA requirements regarding iris rhizomes. She could not locate her file copy of the USDA/APHIS circular PPQ Q.37-3 which your office had sent me, and I think that any administrator should have been able to locate such an important reference quickly and efficiently. She *promised* to call me back within three days; I have not heard a single word from her since that original conversation. I then wrote (via e-mail) to several offices at USDA and APHIS, and I did not even receive the courtesy of a reply from any of the officials I contacted. I sent e-mails again a few days later, and finally received a single reply, telling me that my e-mail had been forwarded elsewhere.

Both you and Ms. Jarman indicated that the San Francisco office had tried to contact me in August when the plants arrived. However, judging from the address placed on the Mail Interception Notice, that notice was sent to an incorrect address, directed to me on "Rotal" Court instead of Royal Court; note that the box from Germany was correctly addressed. Supposedly they also tried to reach me by phone, but I received no calls. And they indicated that they had tried to find me via a search of the internet; anyone who "googles" me will find my position with the American Iris Society, along with an e-mail address which I can access wherever I may travel.

Thank you for your letter of November of 2005. You wrote: "When the irises arrived at the San Francisco Plant Inspection Station, the plant health safeguarding specialist (PHSS) who performed the inspection observed that the irises had leaves attached to the rhizomes. The PHSS correctly determined that the irises with leaves attached were required to be imported under a PPQ issued import permit."

Let me repeat that I had applied to your office for such a permit, and you refused a permit on the basis that it was not required!

In addition, because a rhizome is, physically, a part of the stem, it is by definition attached to the leaves; they are inseparable. Irises have been shipped in this manner for centuries, and anyone who is performing plant inspections should realize this. I have received numerous other shipments of irises, shipped in exactly the same condition, from places as varied as Uzbekistan and Australia, not to mention less exotic locations such as France and previous shipments from the same sender in Germany; the question of the attached leaves has never before arisen, even in the case of four other international shipments received in 2005! Again, anyone with the requisite horticultural knowledge would realize that this is the way irises are shipped.

If irises require an import permit, I am happy to apply for one. But if such a permit is needed, then why did your office previously refuse my

application on the basis that a permit was *not* needed? If a permit is needed, would you please send me another application form, and promise that this time I will receive a permit and not another letter telling me that one is not needed!

In closing, let me say that I thoroughly support the precepts on which APHIS is based. I believe wholeheartedly that we need to avoid importation of dangerous plants and pests. However, I cannot condone the "Catch-22" situation in which I have been placed by USDA/AHIS in this particular instance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. ♪

RESPONSE FROM USDA/APHIS REPRINTED ON PAGE 101



Miller's Manor Gardens
 12788 E 191st St
 Noblesville, IN 46060
 email: lyndamiller@iquest.net
www.millersmanorgardens.com

Ph: 317-770-7678
Fax: 317-776-0323

JACK'S PICK (C.Bunnell) MTB 22", ML. Standards are gold with mauve veining and blush. Falls are white heavily veined burgundy becoming solid at the tip with a thin rim of yellow widening at the throat. Beards are bright yellow-orange. Sdlg: H33-4\$20.00

OVERBOARD (L.Miller) TB 37", M. Up to 15 buds per stock will make Overboard a long bloomer in the garden. Blue-white Standards with Falls washed blue-plum turning to a blue edge will make you take the plunge for Overboard. Sdlg: 31602A\$40.00

ROYAL TOGS (L.Miller) TB 30", M. Rich color combination. Standards are hazy orchid pink flushed violet-plum at the base. Falls are dark purple plum with velvet-black overlay accented by deep orchid beards tipped burnt orange. Sdlg: 11503A\$40.00

SPIRITS RISING (L.Miller) TB,SA 30" L. Your spirits will rise with this space age pink. Clear pink color with blocky form, lace, and large fuzzy pink horns turning sharply upwards with its pink flounces. Vigorous grower. Sdlg: 4703\$40.00

STANDING ALONE (L.Miller) TB 35" M. As the reddish-pink roses dry on the bush, standing alone are the rose brown blossoms with dark orange stamens (beards). Sdlg: 4497\$40.00

Add \$6.00 for shipping. Send \$3 for a descriptive catalog (some color).

www.theirisfarm.com

Meet the New RVPs

Jerry Coates, Region 4

Having been born and brought up in West Tennessee, where the soils are rich and the climate is mild, I was passionate about horticulture from my earliest memories. I had my own personal garden plot from the age of eight, and grew dahlias and zinnias in those early years. There were always irises about, in both my parents' garden and that of my grandmother, which was adjacent to our own. My Grandmother Coates undoubtedly had a huge impact upon my interests in gardening - she grew exotic things, and was constantly receiving something new in the mail for her garden.



Jerry Coates

I left Tennessee to attend the University of Texas & Southwest Texas State College, studying Biology and Ecology; and I later moved East to Maryland to teach Biology in Public Schools. For the National Educational Television Association in 1970, I produced a TV series called Look Around You, designed to assist Biology Teachers in using the Inquiry and Discovery methods of science education in the classroom. Following my educational career, I became a realtor, and continue to this day in Real Estate Sales and Development.

My wife, Maryann, enjoys my iris activities, and is my constant companion, attending conferences, conventions, training and tours. Her insights and observations are invaluable. We both look forward to traveling around the country during my term as RVP, to experience irises in all the Regions. With our Daughter, Jennifer, having just moved to Seattle, and Maryann being from Savannah, we hope to meet other iris enthusiasts everywhere.

Hugh Thurman, Region 7

I have always enjoyed working with plants of all kinds. As a child, I spent the summer vacations from school working on my grandparents' farm. At first I helped in the vegetable and flower gardens; later I helped in the fields working the crops.

My wife first grew iris in the mid-sixties. We ordered collections from both Cooley's and Schreiner's. They grew well for two or three years. Then came the borers. We didn't know anyone who grew iris; we didn't know there was an American Iris Society. My only source of information was general gardening books. These books said that the only way to get rid of borers was to dig up the irises and throw them away. This turned out to be a two-person job: I would dig, and she would cry. The only things that I didn't dig were the SDBs.



Hugh Thurman

About twenty years later, my wife came home from work and told me that on her lunch hour she had gone to an iris garden about 15 miles away and bought 15 iris. I insisted that we go back so I could see them. We ended up buying 48 that evening. This person was Ed Roberts, who became my mentor. Ed talked us into joining AIS in 1989 and insisted that I start hybridizing in the 1990s.

After becoming an iris judge, I decided that we should grow all types of iris, to become familiar with the different classes. I think that you should grow anything that will bloom in your area.

I belong to two affiliates and five sections. I have attended 13 National Conventions and four mini-conventions. I am immediate Past President of the Dwarf Iris Society. I retired as a pharmacist seven years ago, to have more time to work with my iris. I didn't want to work so long that I would be physically unable to do what I wanted to do in the garden.

Terry Aitken, Region 13

After seeing several impressive iris gardens in our Minneapolis neighborhood and joining the Minnesota Iris Society at a show back in 1970, we slowly became involved in iris activities. After our move to Vancouver, WA, in 1974, we quickly became acquainted with Bennett Jones, George Shoop and Gus Schreiner. In 1976, I began spreading pollen on beards. In 1977, after some much-needed advice about pollinating from my mentors, my first seed crop was harvested. In 1980, Bennett and George convinced me to attend the AIS National Convention in Oklahoma where Ron Mullin was Chairman. Joe Ghio was awarded the Dykes Medal for MYSTIQUE. (I had already used MYSTIQUE for some of my initial crosses.) I was impressionable and impressed! To this day, I can track back to MYSTIQUE in the



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Dallas, Texas 75229

2006 INTRODUCTIONS

AGAINST ALL ODDS (H. Nichols) TB 36" ML Very ruffled flax blue being irregularly marked and streaked darker flax blue to purple with gold hafts and gold and blue beards. (Titan's Glory X Batik) 8+ buds. Well branched. Fertile . \$50.00

ALMOST AN ANGEL (H. Nichols) TB 36" ML Ruffled cocoa pink amoena. Absolutely beautiful in the garden. 7+ buds, well branched and fertile. (Aura Light X Champagne Waltz) Rapid in growth and show stalks. \$50.00

BETTY ZIMMERMAN (H. Nichols) TB 36" ML Elegantly ruffled huge updated version of Acoma with class. Tangerine and violet beards. Well branched with 7 buds. (Acoma X Lenora Pearl) \$50.00

BLONDE MOMENT (H. Nichols) TB 36" EL Ruffled empire yellow standards and lighter falls sporting a small white area below the yellow and white beards and Chinese yellow hafts. (Joyce Terry X Crystal Glitters). Well branched, fertile. \$50.00

COWBOY SERENADE (H. Nichols) TB 36" EL Ruffled heliotrope with gold and heliotrope beards. Well branched, fertile. Show stalks. (Breakers X Windsong West). A very beautiful addition to the garden. \$50.00

CROCODILE ROCK (B. Nichols) TB/SA 34" EL A beautiful peach ground on violet plicata with wonderful garden presentation. Usually having large flounces, but may have some flowers with horns. Fertile both ways, well branched. Best Seedling at 2000 AIS Destiny Dallas Convention iris show. (Rodeo Star X Rock Star) \$50.00

GALACTIC STORM (H. Nichols) TB 36" ML Introduced for the hybridizers because of the unusual seedlings it gives when crossed to most irises. A muted version of Ringo. Well branched, fertile. (Diddler X Ringo) \$50.00

IMPERIAL SECRET (H. Nichols) TB 36" EL A ruffled imperial purple self with a white area at the hafts. Beards are creamy tangerine. Well branched show stalks and very fertile. (Breakers X (Aegean Storm x Windsong West) . . . \$50.00

PHANTOM PLANET (H. Nichols) TB 36" EL Our most unusual iris to date! We have a reserve list for this weird iris and you will love it or hate it. A Thornbird child that makes you take notice. Ruffled flowers are blended creamy yellow and brown with bronze, grey, yellow beards. Well branched, fertile. Show stalks. (Thornbird X Hello Darkness). \$50.00

****Special Offer: You may purchase any four of the above introductions excluding PHANTOM PLANET for \$100.00, postage included. All shipments will be made by July 20, 2006. No exceptions.**

2006 INTRODUCTIONS FROM DAVE NISWONGER

CASTOR RIVER (Niswonger'06), Spuria, Sdlg.Sp3-98: Missouri Rainbows X *I. notha*. 38" (96.5 cms) Mid. Another of the *I. notha* hybrids with summer green foliage showing hybrid vigor. It's a deep blue with a gold signal. The name comes from a river in which I went swimming with my grandpa when he was 87 and I was 11. Aside from this sentimentality, it's an iris you will enjoy growing. It doesn't set seed very easily but persistence may produce a couple. \$25.00

LOON LAKE (Niswonger'06), SDB, Sdlg.SDB 5-01: Pink Twilight X ??. 12" (30.1 cms.) Mid. This is a pinkish mauve with a blue beard. It has nice form, easy to grow and fertile both ways. The name was suggested by Gloria Johnston from Crandon, WI; Loon Lake happens to be a lake on which she lives. \$15.00

MISSOURI ORCHID (Niswonger'06), Spuria, Sdlg. 9-99: Missouri Dreamland X Unknown (hand-pollinated, lost tag, probably Rivulets of Pink). 38" (96.5 cms.) Mid. From my line of searching for a pink spuria. It isn't pink but if you look closely at the orchid, you can almost visualize some pink in it. The gold signal blends into the orchid. Fertile both ways. \$25.00

TRACKING RABBITS (Niswonger'06), TB, Sdlg. 24-00:54-97(((Silverado x 38-92:((Tinted Crystal x 54-89)): (Elvis Presley x Bridal Fashion))) X 54-95:(Charm City Choice x Timescape). 32" (81.3 cms.) Mid. Another white with the hint of green, especially in the midrib. It won an Exhibition Certificate in the show of 2005. One of the judges commented that if they could make a seedling the Queen of the Show, they would have picked this one. It has wide ruffled falls, well-branched, nice poise, good substance, and strong stalks. Fertile both ways. \$45.00

WINTER HORIZON (Niswonger'06) TB, Sdlg. 27-00: Rear View Mirror X Crowned Heads. 33" (83.8 cms.), Mid. A reverse amoena with deep blue stds and white falls reminiscent of a snow covered field enhanced by a bright blue sky. Good grower, floriferous and fertile both ways. \$45.00

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KEITH KEPPEL
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INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2006

TALL BEARDED

- ARISTOCRACY** L 37" (Rosette Wine x (Fashionably Late x Nora Eileen)) Ruffled, lightly laced royal purple. #99-82B. **\$45.00**
- BAMBOO SHADOWS** M 38" (Thundermaker X sib) Ruffled bamboo tan to buff, lavender fall shadows. #99-191C. **\$45.00**
- DEARIE** ML 36" (Lotus Land X Fogbound) Pastel lavender to blue orchid with faint pinkish fall shading. #98-117D. **\$45.00**
- GYPSY LORD** ML 40" (Last Laugh X (Braggadocio x Romantic Evening)) Blue white standards, violet blue falls marbled rich blue purple, with paprika red beards set in a white blaze. #99-43T. **\$50.00**
- ITALIAN VELVET** M 36" (Quandary sib X Crazy for You) Satin wistaria violet standards, smooth burgundy black velvet falls. #99-157D. . . . **\$45.00**
- JAZZ BAND** M 36" ((Braggadocio x Romantic Evening) X (Prince George x Braggadocio)) Apricot orange, with wild, 1"-wide solid fall band of wine red; bright vermilion red beards. #99-52B. **\$50.00**
- NAUGHTY NIGHTS** L-VL 34" ((Magharee x Overjoyed) X ((Witch's Wand x Witches' Sabbath) x Romantic Evening)) Red burgundy falls with bright gold beards, standards toned mulberry. #98-181J. **\$45.00**
- PARISIAN DAWN** ML 36" (Balderdash X Last Laugh) Creamy apricot, standards with pinkish glow, falls with shadowy mauve marginal shadings, beards scarlet vermilion. #99-45C. **\$50.00**
- PERFORMING ARTS** ML 36" (Social Graces X Vienna Waltz) Ruffled, lightly laced pinkish orchid with creamier falls; beards white to soft melon. #99-104A. **\$45.00**
- POET'S RHYME** EM 37" (Wintry Sky sib X Electric Shock) Clear violet standards, texture-veined light violet blue falls. #00-130A. . . . **\$45.00**
- RESTLESS HEART** M 38" (Last Laugh X (Prince George x Braggadocio)) Ruffled white, falls with veronica violet fall shading aging to sharp band, grenadine red beards. #99-48B. **\$50.00**

and two from Barry Blyth....

- GLAMOUR PANTS** EM 36" (Gypsy Geena sib X Drinks at Sunset) Apricot standards shaded rose, reddish burgundy falls neatly edged apricot, and white patterning around bright orange tangerine beards. #L277-9. . . . **\$50.00**
- TASTE THE MAGIC** EM 38" (Glamour Pants sib) Same pattern, but oyster white standards, cherry black falls edged oyster, with white patterning and bright tangerine beards. #L277-8. **\$45.00**

SMALLER BEARDED

- ARVO** SDB - M 14" ((Easter x Chantilly Dancer) X Brash) Heavily ruffled tan to brown, falls flushed violet. #99-24F. **\$15.00**
- OVERCAST** SDB - M 14" (Arvo sib) Ecru tan and lavender, falls with white spot and golden ecru edge. Luminata-plicata. #99-24G. **\$12.50**
- BONKERS** IB - M 24" (Stage Lights sib X Brash) Smoky mauve to velvety port wine, vivid dandelion gold heart and marking. #00-40E. . . . **\$20.00**
- BUGABOO** IB - M 27" (Bonkers sib) Greyed milky violet, apricot buff shoulders and shadings, smoky orange beards. #00-40A. **\$20.00**

Add \$6.00 for shipping and handling. Priority Mail shipment, July or August.
Catalogue \$2.00, refundable with order.



Italian Velvet



Glamour Pants



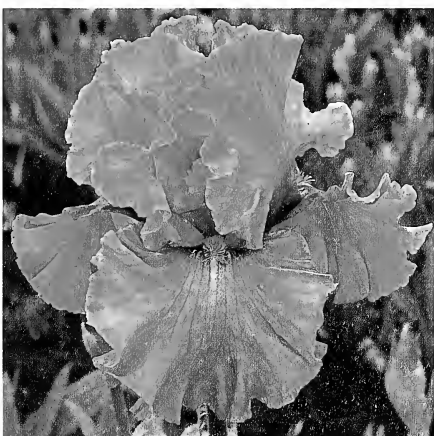
Aristocracy



Restless Heart



Parisian Dawn



Bamboo Shadows

PRESENTING FOR 2006

ABSOLUTE TREASURE (Tasco 2006) TB, 42", M. Seedling # 99-TB-06-01. Heavily ruffled sky blue with slightly lighter fall centers. White based beards, tipped golden yellow in middle and throat and frosty white at the end. Husky grower with 3-to-4 branches and 7-to-10 buds. Sudden Impact X Color Me Blue.....\$45.00 or 3/\$90.00

PRIME POWER (Tasco 2006) TB, 36", ML. Seedling # 99-TB-21-42. Moderately ruffled and laced cantaloupe orange; tangerine orange B tipped orange. Vigorous grower and the 2-to-3 branches produce 7-to-9 buds. Fringe Benefits X Guadalajara.....\$45.00 or 3/\$90.00

SHADOWS OF NIGHT (Tasco 2006) TB, 42", EML. Seedling # 00-TB-18-01. Heavily ruffled dark purple with black highlights and dark blue-violet beards. Light purple base foliage and moderately sweet fragrance are other attributes. 3-to-4 branches usually produce up to 10 buds. Will send up stalks throughout the spring bloom season with many coming in the early season, unlike a lot of other blacks. Sudden Impact X Paint It Black.....\$45.00 or 3/\$90.00

NOBLE WARRIOR (Tasco 2006) AB (OGB), 33", EM. Seedling # 01-AB-14-10. Creamy ivory standards with light yellow midrib and light yellow veins that lighten towards the edge; showy golden yellow style arms. Slightly recurved golden yellow falls, burgundy red veining which lightens towards the bottom of the falls, veining is darker on hafts and around the large round burgundy red signal. Beard is wide and golden yellow in the throat; narrow and bronzed yellow in the middle and at the tip. Each beard hair has a very tiny insignificant burgundy red tip. Strong growing with 1 branch and 3 buds. English Eyes X Bagdad's Folly.....\$25.00 or 3/\$50.00

HOT GLOW (Tasco 2006) IB, 23", EM & RE. Seedling # 97-IB-11-17-RE. Ruffled bright golden canary yellow; slightly darker fall spot that lightens with age. White based beard with the hairs tipped burnt orange in throat, tangerine in the middle, and canary yellow at the end. One branch and a spur produce 4 buds. Pure As Gold X 91-46-30, Wizard's Return sib.....\$20.00 or 3/\$40.00

REPLICATOR (Tasco 2006) SDB, 11", M & RE. Seedling # 97-SDB-17-28-RE. Lightly ruffled magenta violet, large dark purple black fall spot with slightly darker veins. Light violet beard, burgundy brown deep in throat. Inside base of standards has dark burgundy brown veining. Heavily fragrant with 2-to-3 buds. Wizard's Return X 94-01: (91-56-10: (Wake Up x Bisbee) x 91-46-30, Wizard's Return sib).....\$15.00 or 3/\$30.00

SPECIAL: all 6 above introductions (a \$195 value) for only \$ 135.00 (plus shipping/tax)

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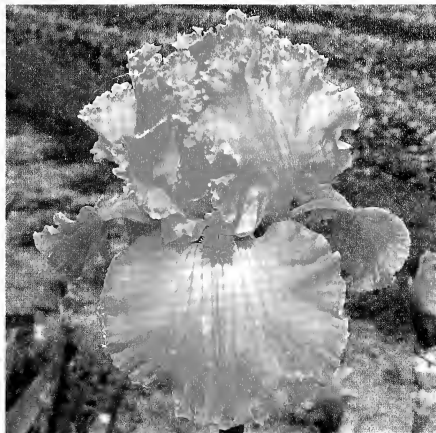


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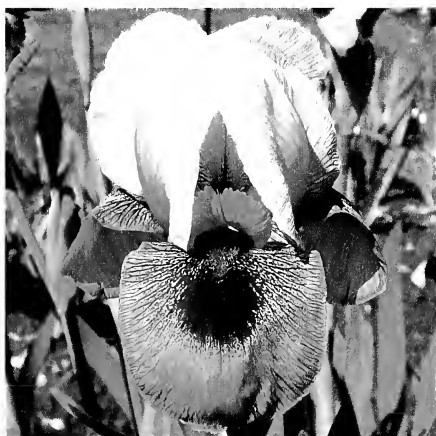
ABSOLUTE TREASURE



PRIME POWER



SHADOWS OF NIGHT



NOBLE WARRIOR



HOT GLOW



REPLICATOR

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2006

By Dr. Don Spoon, Ginny Spoon, Griffin Crump, Clarence Mahan, Ryan Carter and Dr. Charlie Nearpass

Carter Spring (R. Carter) TB, 36" (91cm), ML. Sdlg. #98-93A. Ruffled bicolor with closed, domed yellow (RHS 7D) standards, lavender at bases and midribs. Style arms yellow (7D), lavender midribs and across lip. Falls medium lavender, darkest (92A) at center below beards grading and blending to old gold on edges. Beards white, tipped yellow-orange, darkest (23A) in throat. Sweet fragrance. 7-9 buds. Fertile both ways. (Edith Wolford X Colette Thurillet). \$35.

Crazy (D. Spoon) TB SA, 35" (89 cm), ML. Sdlg. #98-250A. Ruffled and fluted, laced bitone with long upturned, fuzzy magenta horns with lighter finger-like, pointed branches. Lighter magenta (red purple 71D) standards. Style arms peachy yellow edged yellow with magenta midribs and laced crests. Deeper magenta (71A) falls grading to light edges, lighter magenta midline, and light yellow sun spray extending 1/3rd of arched, wide falls. Orange red (35A) beards. 7-9 buds. Fertile both ways. (((Gigolo x Satin Siren) x Queen in Calico) X Rock Star {Lovebird x Gigolo}). \$45.

Earth Girl (D. Spoon) TB SA, 36" (91cm), ML. Sdlg. # 98-248A. Ruffled and fluted, arched falls with upturned fuzzy white horns. Domed and lightly laced mauve (70D) standards with darker bases and midribs. Peachy pink style arms. White ground plicata falls with ? inch raspberry stitching and peppering with lighter edges. White beards tipped tangerine, deeper tangerine in throat. 7-9 buds. Fertile both ways. (((Gigolo x Satin Siren) x Queen in Calico) X Rock Star {Lovebird x Gigolo}). \$35.

Foggy Bottom (D. Spoon) TB, 36" (91 cm), EML. Sdlg. #97-83A. Ruffled, laced dark top with arched falls. Triple socket terminals and lower branches. 9-12 buds. Closed standards, violet blue (92A) at base with darker venation and grading to 92C at top. White style arms and falls. Intense orange-red (33A) beards, white at bases. Fertile both ways. Best Seedling at 2005 Spring Show for C&P Iris Society. (RE All American X Upside Down). \$35.

Haunting (J. G. Crump) TB, 31" (79 cm), VL & RE in October in zone 7. Sdlg. #984U3. Ruffled deep red-violet with black overtones. Falls with velvety finish. White haft marks spiraling outward. Beards deep red-violet. Slight sweet fragrance ((Holy Night x Best Bet) X (Holy Night x Sweeter Than Wine)). \$40.

Love at First Sight (J. G. Crump) TB, 36" (91 cm) 7-9 buds, M. Sdlg. #99A7. Ruffled, red violet self with velvety sheen. Beards red violet. Best seedling for 2005 Region 4 spring tour and winner of Alice Bouldin Award (Saturday Night Live X Gyro). \$35.

Orion's Gate (G. Spoon) TB, 33" (84 cm) 7 buds, M. Sdlg. #97-4C. Ruffled and fluted, flared, and laced bicolor. Erect standards, yellow (7B) with lavender at bases and midribs and darker yellow (7A) on edges. Style arms darker yellow (7A). Medium lavender falls with old gold at hafts and shoulders, and lighter lavender zonal below the beards. Golden yellow (16A) beards that light up the center of the flowers. Fertile both ways. (Lady Juliet X Little John). \$35.

Signal Red (D. Spoon) TB, 35" (89 cm), L. Sdlg. # 98-182A. Spectrum (signal) red beards (43A). Ruffled and fluted. Laced and bubble laced. Closed, domed standards, mauve pink {blend of pink (38C) and lavender (76C)}. Style arms mauve pink with old gold edges. Arched falls, mauve pink with lighter zonal around the large, bushy beards and darker mauve pink on edges. Grayed orange (171D) deep in hafts. Sturdy, widely branched stalks with 7-9 buds. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. (Horatio X O. K. Corral). \$45.

Spun Candy (D. Spoon) TB Variegated flowers, 35" (89 cm), 7-9 buds, ML. Sdlg. #98-208B-A. Ruffled falls, wide and very ruffled at the hafts. Light baby-ribbon pink standards, style arms, and falls. Closed standards with lavender at bases and up the midribs, Falls have lavender variegation (broken color) of splashes occurring only in the hafts and shoulders and lavender venation and peppering beside the beards. End of beards lavender, tangerine pink in middle and throat. Best Seedling, 2004 spring C&P show. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. (Baboon Bottom X Little John). \$40.

Star Challenger (D. Spoon) TB, 42" (107 cm), ML & RE (November in zone 6b). Sdlg. #97-395RE. Ruffled, red purple (blend of 77A and 83A) self, including the beards, with satiny sheen. 7" by 8" flowers. Very sturdy, well-branched stalks, 1" thick at base, with 7-11 buds. Closed, domed standards. Style arms lighter red-purple on edges with old gold yellow at the bases. Arched falls have smooth hafts with copper infusions. Red purple beards tipped lavender blue in middle and in throat. Commanding presence in the garden. Fertile both ways. (Dusky Challenger – RE carrier 39" X Starburst 44"). \$45.

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2006



EARTH GIRL SA



PINK COLLAGE IB



FOGGY BOTTOM



SPUN CANDY



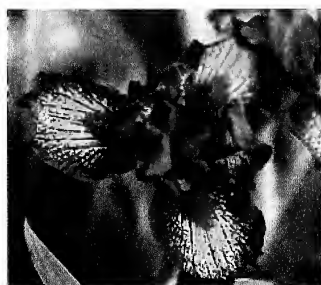
WAY UP HIGH



EXUBERANCE BB



SIGNAL RED



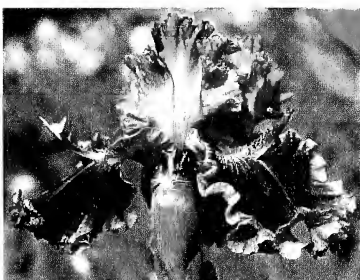
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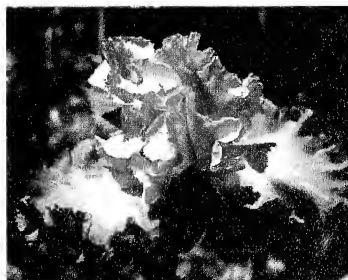
JUNE BUG SDB



STAR CHALLENGER RE



CRAZY SA



ORION'S GATE

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2006

OWay up High (D. Spoon) TB, 40" (102 cm), 7-11 buds, M, Sdlg. #98-171A. Ruffled and flared. Standards raspberry red, lighter and more yellowed than falls. Style arms raspberry red. Falls raspberry red (58A) with lavender centers, rosewood border, and bronze shoulders. Beards end lavender, middle hairs tipped mustard-red-orange, throat hairs tipper darker red-orange. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. ((Precious Little Pink x Midsummer's Eve) X Rosette Wine). \$35.

Earth and Sky (D. Spoon) SDB, 10" (25 cm) 2 buds, ML & RE (November in zone 6b). Sdlg. #2003-56A. Ruffled light French blue (100 C and D) with red brown spot in the falls. Closed standards darker French blue at bases. Light French blue spike at end of beards, light French blue tipped yellow to yellow orange in the throat. (Rainbow Rim selfed). \$15.

Exuberance (D. C. Nearpass / D. Spoon) BB, 25" (64 cm) 5-7 buds, EM. Sdlg. #94-443. Lightly ruffled, raspberry pink self with darker venation and tangerine (34A) beards. Closed, domed standards and arched falls. Vigorous and floriferous. (Parentage unknown). \$15.

Jack Loving (D. Spoon) SDB, 12" (30 cm) 2-3 buds, EM & RE (October in zone 6b). Sdlg. #2003-33B. Ruffled and flared lavender blue with olive green spot in the falls. Closed standards with venation and bases darker lavender-blue and willow green midrib venation. Lavender blue spike at base of lavender blue beards, tipped yellow. Best seedling at 2005 Region 4 spring show. (Wise Willow X Senorita Frog). \$15.

June Bug (D. Spoon) SDB, 12" (30 cm) 2-3 buds, ML. Sdlg. #98-54B. Ruffled pink plicata with wide, flaring falls and erect standards. Standards baby ribbon pink with rosy pink veins and peppering at bases. Style arms, darker baby ribbon pink with rosy pink on each side of midribs. Falls bordered with baby ribbon pink and rosy pink stitching and peppering mainly at the hafts and shoulders and veins crossing the white ground. Beards white, tipped tangerine with end white, middle tangerine and throat deeper red-orange. Vigorous. Fertile both ways. (Calico Lace X P. Black D-500A). \$15.

Olive Spot (D. Spoon) SDB, 12" (30 cm) 2-3 buds, EML & RE (October in zone 6b). Sdlg. #98-45A. Ruffled light yellow with large olive spot on wide, flared falls. Standards and falls have darker yellow edging. Beards white, tipped yellow. Vigorous. Fertile both ways. (With Castanets X Hot Chic). \$15.

Petit Louvois (C. Mahan) MTB, 26" (66 cm), EM. Sdlg. #BLCR-10. Muted red-violet, almost brown standards. Style arms yellow with midribs and crests the color of standards. Falls deep red-violet, almost maroon, with yellow in the center and an edge rim the color of standards. Beards gold. Slight fragrance. (Black Lady X Carolyn Rose). \$15.

Pink Collage (D. Spoon) IB, 25" (63.5 cm), 4-5 buds. EM. Sdlg. #96-338A. Ruffled with arched falls. Pink (38D), erect standards with darker (38A) midribs, pink (38D) style arms, and white grounded falls with rosy pink plicata border, hafts, shoulders, and center midrib veins. Beards white, tipped orange red (34A). (Blaney Marlow X Fairy Lore). \$15.

Snow Peas (D. Spoon) SDB, 12" (30 cm), 2-3 buds. ML. Sdlg. #2003-41A. Ruffled white, flared falls with spot of yellow green with darker olive-green (153C) venation. Erect standards and style arms with light blue midribs and light pink edges. Beards white, tipped yellow to yellow orange in throat. (Snow Tree X Green Tree). \$15.

Spiderlady (D. Spoon) SDB, 13" (33cm) 2-3 buds. ML. Sdlg. #99-65A. Ruffled, red maroon (blend of 183A and 185A) plicata with red maroon veins crossing the yellow ground. Erect, red maroon standards and red maroon style arms with yellow edges. Beards red maroon, tipped orange. Fertile both ways. (Tweety Bird X Baby Prince). \$15.

Tessie the Tease (J. G. Crump) IB, 23" (58 cm). E. Sdlg. #20E2. Standards white, light yellow basal infusions. Style arms white, shading of yellow on sides and center tip. Falls bright yellow, broad white marginal band with white center stripe dissecting bright yellow. Beards orange, yellow on end. Chalice partially opened form, finally opening fully as flower matures. (Aura Light X Lumalite). \$15.

Trimmed Velvet (D. Spoon) MDB, 6" (15 cm), EM & RE (October in zone 6b). Sdlg. #2001-52B. Ruffled, deep plum- purple with closed standards and arched falls with purple black spot. Style arms, deep plum-purple and lighter on edges. Beards lavender blue, tipped golden yellow in middle and orange deep in throat. (Senorita Frog selfed). \$15.

To order from this advertisement send check or money order to Winterberry Gardens, 1225 Reynolds Road, Cross Junction, VA 22625-1726 or call 540-888-4447 for VISA or MasterCard order. Make suggestions for extras. Add \$7 for shipping. Send \$5 for 76 page descriptive catalog with color pages. E-mail vspoon@aol.com. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Abbey

2006 Introduction From Dave Silverberg



IN JOY (D. Silverberg) Sdlg 90-29S, TB, 37" (94 cm), M. A beautiful lightly ruffled, dark red-purple self (RHS 89A) with 7-9 buds.
77-3H: (742: Bold Banner x Shipshape) x Shipshape) X Seawolf\$40.00

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Rainbow's End Garden

2006 Introductions by Gerald Richardson <glrich@charter.net>
1109 Pine St, Richland, WA 99354, Phone 1-509-943-9547

DESERT MESA (97-45-1) TB 36" M. Large, very broad flowers are dark violet with bluish area in falls. Flared and ruffled. (Dusky Challenger x (Dusky He-Man x Wide Hips)) X Dusky He-Man.

NEW AGE DAWNING (92-22-2) TB 38" EM. Creamy yellow standards, cream falls overlaid pale blue, darkening to light blue at rim. Creamy yellow style arms. Edith Wolford X Gilt-Edged Bond.

SENIOR MOMENT (94-10-1) TB 38" M. Light lavender standards, orchid lavender falls. Style arms lavender and orchid. Honeymoon Suite X Lucille Richardson

SKYLAND RANCH (92-67-10) TB 42" M. Large, medium to light blue amoena with sturdy stalks that hold the blossoms on high. Two-toned light blue style arms. La Mer X He-Man Blues.

\$25 each, two for \$40, three for \$55, all four for \$70. Free shipping.

Previous introductions still available. See previous April AIS Bulletins for ads.



Paul Clute (R. Ernst, 2006) M 38" \$50.00

Our new year 2006 catalog, *The Iris Fancier's Standard Reference*, features an entire section on rebloomers, including many of Hager's rebloomers.



Just Too Mauvelous (L. Johnson, 2006) ML 36" \$50.00



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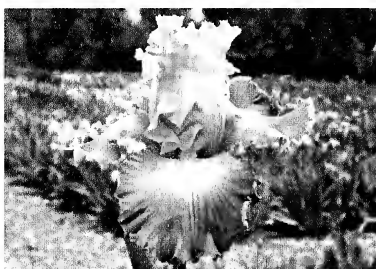
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Bruce Filardi is happy to share his first two iris photos



*“Iris ‘Mystic’
by Bruce Filardi”*

*“Iris ‘Mystic’
by Bruce Filardi”*



Hi Wags, I'm Bruce Filardi, and I'm a member of the American Iris Society. I've been growing irises for over 20 years, and I'm excited to share some of my favorite photos with you. I've included a close-up of a double iris flower, and a photo of two iris plants in a garden. I hope you like them!

SOME OF MY FAVORITE IRIS PLANTS ARE 'Mystic' and 'Mystic' is a double iris with dark, ruffled petals. I've also included a photo of two iris plants in a garden. I hope you like them!

BRUCE FILARDI

Member of the American Iris Society
600 W. 10th Street, Suite 100
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Email: bruce@filardi.com
Web: www.filardi.com

Presented By
Vincent Christopherson

3301 Hanover Drive Arlington Texas 76014

2006 Introductions

- Crown Of Thorns** TB. SA. 32" M. A bitoned blending of lavender and yellow with standard midribs and fall bands being the most pronounced yellow; purple-based lavender bearded horns. Slight sweet fragrance. Sdlg # Sybl5-85AH (Quiet Elegance X Thornbird).....**\$45.00**
- Magic Number** TB. SA. 37" E-M. Our first pink toned pure luminata with horns. Pink standards lightly brushed purple; falls luminata washed purple with peach shoulders; white beard hairs tipped red cover horns. Sdlg L8-13AH, L4-124D (Romantic Mood x Spirit World) X (Spirit World x Amelia's Orchid).....**\$45.00**
- Navajo Code** TB. SA. 27- 30" M. Yellow standards and red falls in the classic variegata style but also sporting red flounces, yellow beards sit amidst a red and yellow ray pattern . Grows as a short TB here with good increase, sweet fragrance. Sdlg # VP4-170 (Rock Star X Brandy Sipper)**\$40.00**
- Peace Of Mind** * TB 28" M. A laced reverse bitone with mauve standards and light peach pink falls, soft orange beards, crimped ruffles, good substance, and slight sweet fragrance Sdlg # R4-8A (Hula Dancer X Stare Stealer)**\$40.00**
- Stronghold** TB. 39" M. Dark purple standards; falls are a slightly lighter shade of purple on close inspection, light blue beards turn yellow entering the flower. Slight sweet fragrance. Sdlg # Sbr4-220 (Starfleet X Dusky Challenger).....**\$45.00**
- Wheels In Motion** * TB. 38" M. Blue plicata marks cleanly circle the pure white standards and falls; light blue beards. Best from a large group of bitone and plicata siblings. Sdlg # P3-211A (Inaugural Ball X Snowbrook).....**\$45.00**
- Champagne Blush** BB 24" E-M. Coming from Calm Assurance our second amoena glaciata introduction, white standards faintly veined pink; white falls banded soft pink with richer pink shoulders; white beard hairs tipped orange. Good grower. Fertile both ways. Sdlg # AG8-17A (Magic Moonbeams X Calm Assurance)**\$25.00**
- Helping Hands** BB 24" E-M Purple luminata washes in a bitone effect with darker flared falls. Yellow beards, style arms, and ground color set off the color contrast. 8 to 15 buds, 3 to 4 branches, Sdlg# L5-224 (Step Beyond X Low Spirits).....**\$25.00**

2005 introductions

- Calm Assurance** TB 28" E-M. This first of its kind is unique in that it is an amoena glaciata, from plicata breeding. White standards are veined lightly with green; falls are light yellow washed lightly with peach and fade to a cream white zone around the yellow beards tipped white. Lightly crimp ruffled with seven to eight buds. slight sweet fragrance. Sdlg # (AG5-2E Mind Reader X Scorch)**\$40.00**
- Invitation Only** TB 28" E-M An amoena luminata displaying pure white standards; falls are blue washed over a white ground with yellow beard and shoulders flowing into the white flower core. Nice ruffled form. Won an AIS exhibition certificate for its seedling debut at the Fort Worth spring 2001 show. sdlg # L5-9 (Mind Reader X Chiffon Ruffles).....**\$35.00**
- Make A Wish** TB 29" E-M The first of its kind, a space age variegata luminata with horns! Ruffled pure yellow standards, yellow shouldered falls, sanded red-brown over a yellow ground, that blends lighter towards the yellow bearded horns. Good green growth and bud count. (Invitation Only X Rodeo Arena)**\$40.00**

Please visit our web site toolsbydesign.com/vciris/ to view these and other varieties not pictured in this add. Email use at vciris@sbcglobal.net . Add \$ 8.00 to your order for shipping and handling. Due to the extended drought here in Texas many of our rhizomes will be grown in California by Paul & Carol Buchheim of Mystic Lake Gardens. California plants will be shipped in August. If growing conditions permit, that is if the drought breaks, Texas shipments will start in late June for northern climates through early September in southern regions.

Wheels In Motion * and **Peace Of Mind** * , pictured below will be co-introduced through Argyle Acres Iris Garden. Joe & Donna Spears have introduced many of my introductions since 2001. See their website at argyleacres.com .



Wheels In Motion



Peace Of Mind



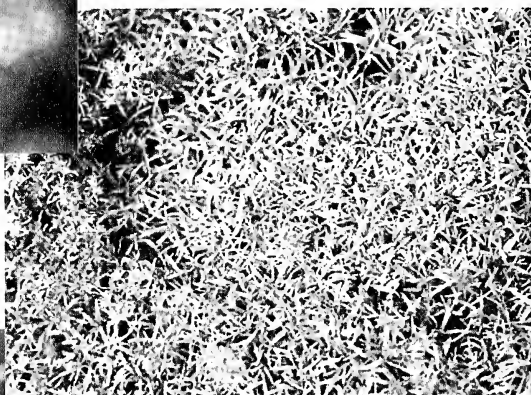
Champagne Blush



Navajo Code



Scleranthus flower



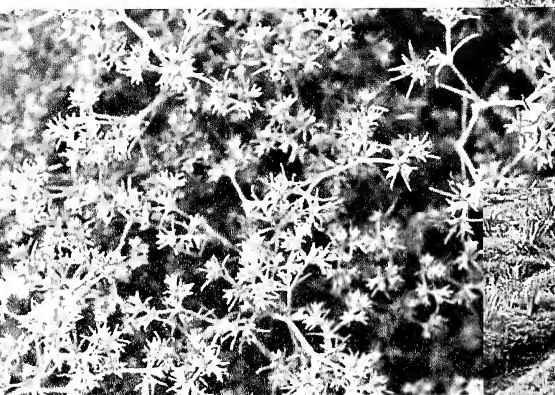
Scleranthus seedlings



Scleranthus cluster



Above and below: Iris beds with Scleranthus at Winterberry Gardens



Scleranthus mat





Scleranthus

See article by Don Spoon
all photos: D. Spoon

Top: Iris garden at Georgetown
University with *Scleranthus*

Right: *SERENDIPITY* ELF





This page, top to bottom:

P. Black K28A (El Cerrito X Puccini)

P. Black L129A (In Living Color sib X (Tropical Magic x (Blush of Color x Taunt)))

P. Black M52D (Cameo Appearance X Mythology)

T. Johnosn YW3B (Ballet Royale X Corps de Ballet)





Seedlings

Photos: P. Black, P. Otterness

This page, clockwise from top right:

T. Johnson TW7A (Braggadocio X Brazilian Holiday)

P. Otterness A-379 (Lemon Fever x Eagle's Flight)

P. Otterness A-439 (Colette Thurillet x Whispering)

P. Otterness A-414 (Cinnamon x Partita)

T. Johnson TW146B (Waiting for George X (Fancy Dress x Progressive Attitude))



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COZY STITCH (David Miller) 98-14B TB 30" Remember watching Grandma stitching her tea towels and how cozy she made you feel. This iris will provide that same cozy comfort with its consistent bloom. Standards are purple, blending to white, while the falls are done up in white with purple stitches. Yellow gold beards lightly tipped purple add accent. Expect 5-10 buds with some multiple stalks, excellent branching, and consistent bloom. Kind of short, but then so was Grandma. Tennessee Gentleman X Everything Plus \$40.00

ETHEL MAE (Lois Olson) 95-N-3 TB 40" M Bright and lovely like the lady for whom it is named. Standards are rosy pink with a hint of lavender on the edges. Falls are cream blending into a wide lavender border. Bright red orange beards with 1/2" fuzzy light purple horns add zing. Nicely ruffled. Conjunction X Feminine Wiles \$40.00

RUTH IRENE (Lois Olson) 98-C-1 TB 38" ML Named after our viola playing daughter, who is also a very good gardener. This tall strong ruffled deep blue purple iris has very ruffled style arms. The falls have a hint of red blush and the lavender blue beards are highlighted by some white. Let it make music in your garden. Caribbean Dream X Tintinnabulation \$40.00

SKI COLORADO (Tom Magee) TB 34" M Take the lift up to high altitude- whirling and swirling in snow with a glint of sunlight. ((Above All X Fuji's Mantle) X (Mary Randall X Charles Gordon G5910) X Ice Sculpture)) X (Colorado Sunshine X Lone Ranger) EC '96, '99, & '03 \$40.00

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (Tom Magee) TB 29" E Fog standards and styles, falls sandy beach with halo of surf, brown pelican haft marks, beards orange sun rising on gulf morning horizon. Sib to Bolder Boulder \$40.00

SUNLIT WINDOWS (Lois Olson) 95-N-1 TB 38" M Light up your life with lacy ruffled pink standards that open to reveal golden yellow style arms. Bright red beards lie between golden yellow shoulders. The lavender falls shade to white around the beards and have a thin rosy mauve border. Conjunction X Feminine Wiles \$40.00

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LONG'S GARDENS — 2006 INTRODUCTIONS



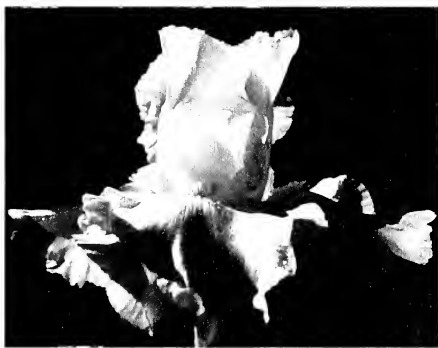
Cozy Stitch



Ethel Mae



Ruth Irene



Ski Colorado



South Padre Island



Sunlit Windows



Dykes Medal Winner, THORNBIRD (Byers) above

All photos: Melanie North





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Left: SIMPLY STATED (D. Hager seedling)
Voted Best in Region at SJI Convention, 2005.
Photo: D. Hager

Below: COUNTY OF KENT (L. Baumunk)
in its home garden.
Photo: L. Baumunk





Left: SIMPLY STATED (D. Hager seedling)
Voted Best in Region at SJI Convention, 2005.
Photo: D. Hager

Below: COUNTY OF KENT (L. Boumunk)
in its home garden.
Photo: L. Boumunk





*Get 'Em Hooked While
They're Young!*

All photos courtesy of Nancy Price



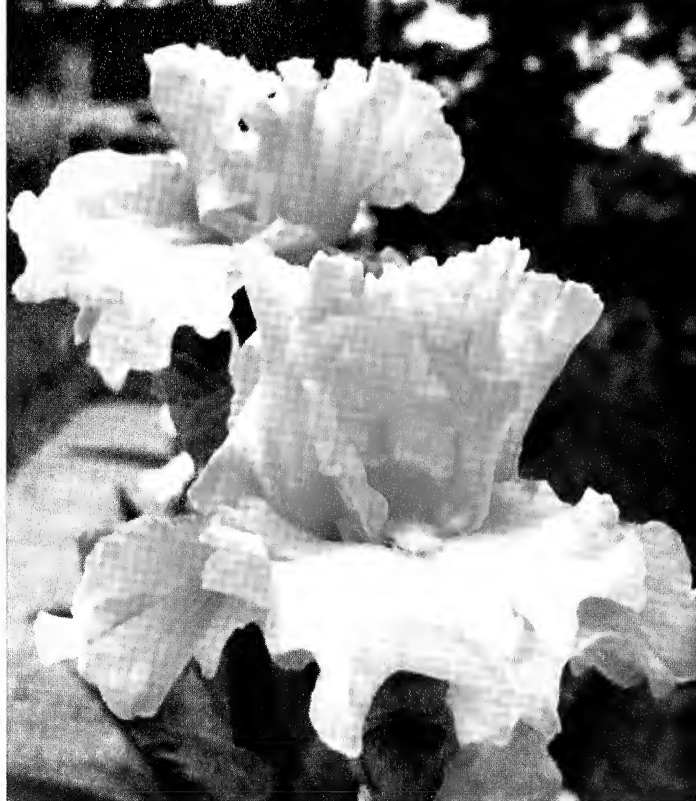
Above: Keith Fillmore with
grandson, Caleb Price



Left: Christopher Rust

Below: Hutchinson, KS
Classroom Iris Project





Above: CARISMA (A. Bianco)



Left: BOURGEOIS (P. Black)

Below: BLUEBERRY TART (C. Chapman)





Clockwise from top left:

Van Liere seedling

WIZARD OF HOPE (C. Chapman)

LINDA DARNELL (J. Hedgecock)

Van Liere seedling

Loomis Garden Performers

(see article for 2005 Loomis Trial results)



MOONBOW
(T. Parkhill)

parentage of many of my introduction.

More gentle persuasion by Bennett had me attending Regional meetings. At the second one, I was nominated assistant RVP. I was RVP during the National Convention in Seattle in 1984. I spent most of the '80s as Region 13 Editor and trying to help build up the Greater Portland Iris Society, and finally serving as chairman for the 1994 National Convention in Portland. Since that time I have served thirteen years with the AIS Board of Directors in various capacities including *Bulletin* Editor for five years and another three years as president of AIS.

During all of this time, Bennett Jones and George Shoop's philosophy about hybridizing was settling in. "There will always be room in a garden for a superior quality product. Judges cannot vote for plants they have not seen. An iris with a tangerine beard is better than one without." The challenges are great and the rewards are many as a number of introductions have gone on to receive medals. I have continued to diversify into other iris types with the objective of extending the bloom season anywhere that I can.

For my wife Barbara and me, irisarians are our extended family, and we will continue to work to make life a bit better for all of them. Our garden will be on the AIS National Convention tour this year in the Portland area. Come join for the great iris experience in 2006!

Kathy Chilton, Region 15

Kathy Chilton is a native Arizonan, born in Tucson, AZ, and has lived in the desert all her life. She earned a teaching degree from Arizona State University, where she met her husband, Tom, whose family has been ranching in Arizona for over 100 years. She spent the next 25 years teaching middle school and raising their two children, Rebecca and John – staying busy with sports, 4-H and Jr. Rodeos. When they were both off to college, Tom and Kathy moved to the family ranch, southwest of Tucson.



Kathy Chilton


In the process (still ongoing) of renovating the old ranch headquarters, Kathy finally had time to start gardening. She met a new friend, Joanne Miller, who had turned gardening into a profession. Part of Joanne's advice was to plant some irises! This seemingly simple and harmless suggestion quickly grew into a classic infection of the "iris virus." She did get even with Joanne for this... Joanne became infected by Kathy's love of Native American Indian jewelry!

Seeing a small ad for an iris rhizome sale by the Tucson Area Iris Society, Kathy stopped by and was overwhelmed by the variety. She bought a few irises, joined AIS, and was given an old AIS *Bulletin*. Wanting to find out more about this fascinating flower, she wrote to many of the gardens advertised and requested catalogs. There were articles about beautiful gardens at national conventions! That looked like a wonderful excuse to travel to different parts of the country – what fun! After she attended her first convention at Denver, she was hooked! She had a wonderful time, despite the cold and SNOW, and made friends with some of the most wonderful people in the world – irisarians!

The iris virus was now raging, and Kathy entered her first show. That effort gained her one white ribbon and a desire to do better the next year. After several years of effort, she finally achieved a Silver Medal and Best Specimen of Show. She started Judge's Training and achieved Garden Judge status with the help of many terrific tutors and teachers. Kathy has served TAIS as President, and is currently Vice-President of the local club. For a couple of years, she led a Classroom Iris Project with a troop of Brownies and chaired the recent Region 15 Sonoran Desert Trek and Society for Louisiana Irises Convention in Tucson. She has served Region 15 as Newsletter Editor, Ways & Means Chair, and now RVP.

Kathy grows almost five hundred varieties of irises, including Louisianas, Medians, Spurias and Arilbreds. Tall Bearded are her favorite, and make up the bulk of the collection. She loves region treks, conventions and visiting the gardens of hybridizers in the spring, because although she loves all irises, seedlings are her favorite type of irises to see. She is looking forward to helping introduce more gardeners to the wonderful world of irises and the American Iris Society.

Musaccia, Region 10

No information received. 


AIS Iris Conservation Policy

The American Iris Society is dedicated to education, research, and conservation by promoting the understanding, preservation, cultivation, hybridization, selection, propagation, and appreciation of the genus *Iris*. The AIS recognizes that there has been a rapid loss of plant species due to habitat loss, competition from invasive species, and overzealous plant collection. To preserve *Iris* species, the Society will inform its membership and the public of potential threats to rare or endangered *Iris* species. It will express its concerns about specific threats to relevant organizations and agencies, and offer assistance to mitigate threatening situations. AIS will seek opportunities to collaborate with other organizations to determine and report the status of rare *Iris* species.

AIS encourages efforts to protect wild habitats as the sources for genetic variations and naturally thriving plants, for generations to come. We endeavor to collaborate with those organizations and individuals around the world that seek to identify and preserve important *Iris* habitats. We support field and media education as effective means of instilling respect for natural habitats and awareness of rare *Iris* species.

AIS supports the practice of knowledgeable individuals collecting seeds, cuttings, or divisions of wild irises for the purposes of growing, studying, selecting, hybridizing, and ultimately propagating and distributing to other growers. We strongly encourage collectors to be aware that rare plants merit special consideration and should not be disturbed or propagules taken, unless there is sufficient local stock to successfully perpetuate the population. In many cases this means minimal or no collecting.

AIS encourages appropriate horticultural practices that result in effective containment of potential threats, whether they are pathogens or invasive organisms that could be introduced with an iris, or an iris itself, which could become invasive and disruptive if released into a particular foreign ecosystem.

Historically, unrestrained collection of wild plants has reduced many plant populations, occasionally to the extent of disappearance or even species extinction. Similarly, casual horticultural practices have resulted in plants, including irises, becoming garden escapes and threatening habitat for vulnerable native species. Given the challenges of human population pressure and ease of global trafficking in plants, commercial growers and gardeners must become more aware of, and responsible for their actions. 

Preparing for Portland:

A Road Less Traveled

by Pat Otterness, Virginia

At every age, I find myself facing new challenges. If not, I sometimes create challenges for myself, just to keep in shape. For instance, I recently made the daunting decision to attend the 2006 AIS Convention in Portland, Oregon, instead of staying at home and enjoying my own small, out-of-control gardens at Laughingstock.

For many, this would be an unqualified treat, not a challenge. For me, it is like preparing to climb Mt. Everest. Everywhere I look, there are hurdles to be met, problems to be solved, answers to be found. I am not a seasoned traveler. My longest air flight has been from Virginia to Florida, with a relative waiting to meet me at the end of the flight, collect my luggage, provide bed and board, and return me to the airport at the appropriate time for the flight home.

Embarrassingly, the first time I made this trip, another relative met me at my stopover in Charlotte and actually pushed me in a wheel chair all the way to the departure gate for the next leg of my flight. While it is true that I had knee problems at the time, the wheelchair wasn't really necessary. But it gives you some idea of how cosseted I have been on previous trips, and how unprepared I am for a long, solitary trip across the United States.

I have a few foibles ... a few idiosyncrasies ... and a wealth of health considerations that must be taken into consideration. Many people do. First of all, I'm a little deaf ... not enough to get a hearing aid ... but enough that I can't understand a single word spoken over the P.A. system in an airport. This puts me at a big disadvantage in an airport that seems larger than the state of Rhode Island. So one of the first steps in my preparation for Portland is being sure I can avoid such airports. For me, it is worth the extra expense to find the shortest flight, with the fewest stopovers ... at the smallest airports.

A few early enquiries assured me that the Red Lion on the River offers a shuttle leaving from right outside the airport baggage pickup area. No such assurance was offered, however, about who would haul my swiftly moving suitcase off the luggage carousel for me. It's all I can do to *push* my large, wheeled suitcase. Hefting it from a moving belt is totally beyond my capability. Luckily, I am female, and old, so no humiliation need be attached to begging for help from strangers.

As a diabetic, I feared that the convention would make no provision for

my special dietary needs. I sent a list of foods I could and could not (i.e. would and would not) eat, to registrar Judy Nunn, and received assurances that there would be suitable foods for me at the banquets. Box lunches on the tours might be a problem, however. I might have to improvise with those because I am such a picky eater. I'm on a low carb diet, but worse, I don't consume bread, mayonnaise, potatoes, soft drinks, or pork products ... all staples of the traditional box lunch. Because buses leave the hotel at 7 a.m., breakfasts uniquely satisfactory to this picky, low-carb diabetic do not seem to be on offer (coffee and sweet rolls won't do for this old girl), so I cleverly arranged to have both a refrigerator and a microwave reserved for my hotel room at a cost of only \$5 each per day. *Bulletin* editor Bruce Filardi, a Portland resident, assured me that there is a grocery store within walking distance of the hotel. When in doubt, it is best to have a backup plan.

As possessor of an aging bladder, I found it necessary to assure myself that tour buses had restrooms, and that tour gardens were amply supplied with Porta-potties for one and all. Laugh now, youngsters, while you can. *Your time will come!*

Now for the real, serious preparations: clothing, toys, and ... *groan* ... exercise! I live wa-a-y out in the country. My entire wardrobe consists of grubby, holey jeans, and more-or-less matching tee-shirts (i.e. grubby, holey). Perfect for the person who spends most of her time ankle-deep in red clay, weeding, digging, planting, and admiring her iris garden. But perhaps a classier look would be better suited to a national iris convention ...? I am oddly shaped (short, curves in the wrong places), so making my own clothing seems like the best option for me. Luckily, I know how to sew ... but getting a pattern altered to fit me will take a little doing.

Selecting toys for the trip presents an easier task. There are things I want to carry with me to Portland: a digital camera; a tape recorder; a word processing keyboard. All are things I can't convey in a suitcase, for fear of damage or theft. So ... how do I package these things efficiently? My digital camera isn't one of those tiny things you can tuck into a purse or pocket. It is the size and shape of a 35mm SLR. The tape recorder, on the other hand, is small and voice activated. The word processing keyboard is bigger, but it is neither as big nor as heavy as a laptop. I don't think I can carry these three playthings in one container, and that is a dilemma. My wallet and other personal items have to fit in, too, since I really prefer to have only one carry-on bag to keep up with. Something to think about.

Last, and most important, is exercise. *You laugh!* I am 63 years old, with bad knees. Exercise is *vital* to the success of this mission! I have been told that there is a lot of walking involved in the tours of the two larger gardens. Trust me, I'm not flying all the way to Portland so I can sit on a bench and *miss* everything.


So here's my plan. I'm going to start with (*stop laughing!*) deep knee bends. Right at the moment, my knees don't do that ... and if, perchance, they did ... I might never be able to straighten up again. Afterwards, while I'm sitting in front of the TV, recovering from the deep knee bends, I plan to work out with ankle weights to strengthen my knees. Repetitions of five leg-lifts during commercials ought to do it. Maybe I'll even walk around the house for a bit in the ankle weights. The best thing about ankle weights is how good it feels to remove them.

While the weather is icy and treacherous, I'll just walk in place indoors, or perhaps use my treadmill (if it still works). Maybe I should move all the boxes off it and see. In nice weather ... say, March and April, I'll try walking outdoors whenever I can. There are no nice city sidewalks here. Our country roads are dirt and gravel, and provide a poor walking surface for old joints. Because of this, it is necessary for me to make a 20 minute drive to a big, circular, paved church parking lot in order to walk laps without hurting myself.

Throughout my exercise period, I plan to focus on correct breathing. I highly recommend a videotape called *Pilates Body Control*, by Lynne Robinson. This should in no way be confused with the Pilates tapes one sees in the local book and health food stores, with young, thin models on the cover. *Avoid those!* Lynne Robinson is a mature woman ... like many of us irisarians ... and Pilates exercise has given her a body to *try* for.

The thing to do is just *watch* the video. Maybe watch it while you're seated, doing repetitions with your ankle weights. Watch the video over and over again. I find it very refreshing to watch *someone else* exercise. Eventually, you will spot an exercise that grabs your attention ... triggers a response in your brain that screams ... *I can do that!*

This is the point at which your body rises out of the chair and actually performs a new trick. For me, the demonstration of Pilates breathing has been the levitator. If pursued vigorously, it is rumored to turn the abdomen from convex to concave ... a shape deemed more desirable in our culture than the Buddha belly. Even practiced in moderation ... *my own personal best* ... Pilates breathing tones up and strengthens weak abdominal muscles and garners feelings of overall well-being.

Ultimately, these preparations for Portland will either work splendidly for me ... or not. Those of you who plan to attend the 2006 convention might want to keep an eye peeled for a gray-haired lady scrambling aboard the luggage carousel at the airport in order to shove her suitcase floorwards. Or perhaps you might be rewarded with a sighting of a poorly dressed, Buddha-bellied sexagenarian being hauled around Cooley's in a wagon by the ever-helpful Convention Registrar. Either way ... I hope I'll see you in Portland! 

Preparing Irises for Exhibition at Iris Shows

by Sheldon Butt

Reprinted from AIS *Bulletin* #297, April 1995, Page 17, which was a reprint from the *Medianite*, Spring 1994.

(Editor's Note: The late Sheldon Butt was well known for his show exhibitions. These words of wisdom should help others.)

The first step in preparing your irises for successful entry in an iris show is to cut the stalks before the buds open. Why cut them in bud instead of waiting until the flowers open?

This practice avoids potential damage to the blooms from rain, wind or hail. It also avoids possible sun fading of blooms, particularly a problem in strong sunlight in the case of the darker colored irises. Note that the *Judges' Handbook* allocates 15 points (out of 100 total) to "color." Color saturation (which suffers in sun fading) enters into scoring in this area.

Cutting ahead of time allows you to increase the number of irises from which to select your entries by letting you slow down opening of blooms from plants which otherwise would have bloomed and folded before the show, or to speed up blooming by forcing flowers which otherwise would not have been ready in time for the show.

Of course, when you cut your irises in the bud, you won't know whether or not they will have faults, such as splits, deformed petals, etc., when they do open. Also, in spite of your best efforts, the buds may open too soon or, they may not open in time. Thus, it makes sense to cut two or three stalks of each variety as insurance against these problems.

The best time to cut the stalks is early in the morning. Next best is late evening. Why? As the buds mature and flowers open, water and nutrients continue to be transported up through the stalk. When you cut the stalk, the "driving force" to carry water up to the buds through the stalk is reduced. It is important that there be as much water and nutrients in the stalk – in the "pipeline" – at the time of cutting as possible. During the daylight hours humidity is lower than at night or late in the evening. Low humidity speeds up evaporation of water from the stalk, foliage and buds. Transport of water up the stalk in the middle of the day may not be rapid enough to keep up with evaporation. Thus, the stalks when cut in

the middle of the day may have less water and nutrients stored in them. After the stem is cut, reduced transport up the stalk will probably not be sufficient to make up for any such deficiency and may not even keep up with continuing evaporation. If the buds are relatively "dry" by the time they open, they will wilt more quickly and/or the flowers may not be as large. Obviously, the time of cutting is more important on a warm, sunny, breezy day than on a cool, cloudy, still day. (It may be somewhat of a risk to postpone cutting from early morning in the expectation of a cool cloudy day; how accurate are weather forecasts in the spring?)

As soon as possible after cutting the stalk, it should be placed in a full container of water and placed in the shade or indoors. The foliage at the base of the stalk should be removed at this time. Evaporation from foliage helps deplete available water in the stalk. Furthermore, bad foliage detracts from the scoring of the stalk by judges, good foliage adds little. While cutting, transporting and placing a stalk in a container, avoid handling the bud and avoid letting the bud touch anything. If you bruise the bud, the unsightly results will show up in the opened bloom. It is desirable that each individual stalk be placed in its own container so as to avoid one bud rubbing against another. It is also desirable to "wedge" the stalk at this time with plastic foam, paper toweling, etc., so as to hold the stalk firmly in the upright position in which it will be later shown. All of you have noticed how, when a stalk in the garden is not vertical, that the buds will bend away from the stalk and try to orient themselves in a vertical position as they grow and mature. They will do exactly the same thing if the stalk is not upright in the container. You should also attach a temporary label to the container with the name of the variety and the location from which it came in the garden. Remember, you will not see the flower at the time you cut the stalk and if you have incorrectly identified the clump from which it came, a record of the location may help you identify it when it opens. For my own guidance, I also record the date the stalk was cut. If the stalk is to be allowed to flower without being held back by refrigeration or forced by heat, it should be stored in its container in a cool location out of direct sunlight. You should also be careful to allow enough space between containers to avoid contact between the open flower and other nearby stalks or flowers.

What about additives in the water? This subject was discussed after this paper was first presented at the Greater St. Louis Iris Society meeting, and it was suggested to me that adding sugar was advantageous. I tried corn syrup (glucose) at one tablespoon per gallon of water in 1992, and it seemed to help.

At what stage of development of the bud should the stalk be cut? Obviously, this depends upon how far ahead of the show date you cut

the stalk. If you cut it the morning before the show, you should cut stalks on which the bud is very close to opening and would be expected to open during the day before the show if left on the plant. Bear in mind that storage in a cool location out of direct sunlight will slow down maturation and opening of the bud somewhat. Without question, cutting a mature bud the day before the show is the best practice. However, this substantially limits your choice of varieties to exhibit. In order to increase your potential, you may want to hold additional varieties back by refrigeration. I do this quite extensively.

If you elect to refrigerate, there are some factors of which you need to be aware: Refrigeration, even at temperatures near the freezing point, only slows down maturation and opening of the bud, it does not stop this process. You must allow for continuing maturation during refrigeration. Since space in the refrigerator may be limited, you probably will not have enough space to separate containers far enough apart to prevent contact between adjacent open flowers. Thus, you should plan to remove the stalk from the refrigerator before the flowers open.

The longer the stalk stays in the refrigerator, the more critical timing becomes. Why? Although evaporation generally slows if everything else is equal, when temperature is lowered, everything else is not equal. The household refrigerator is a great dehumidifier and the air in the refrigerator is very dry. You cannot avoid gradual drying of the bud. The effect is that the life of the opened bloom is reduced. Since the opened bloom has more surface exposed to drying, this is another reason to avoid opening of the bloom while still in the refrigerator.

The extent to which refrigeration slows down maturation and opening varies from one variety to another. Thus you should inspect the stalks in the refrigerator periodically and, when appropriate, take the container out and let it sit for awhile at room temperature until bloom maturation on the stalk catches up; then return it to the refrigerator.

How long may a stalk be kept in refrigeration? As discussed previously, drying of the bud and consequently its degradation takes place while the stalk is in the refrigerator. If this process of degradations continues for too long, the bud will no longer be capable of producing a good flower. In my experience, three or four days in refrigeration is usually acceptable. The "success rate" is quite high, generally in excess of 75% after four days, and proportionately even higher for shorter periods. Beyond four days, the "success rate" diminishes very rapidly to something on the order of 10% or so after a week. In the case of bearded irises, refrigeration for more than a week has little chance of success. Beardless iris, and particularly spurias, are somewhat more tolerant, and ten days is not hopeless.

In my experience, the degree of flexibility which can be derived by forcing bloom is much more limited than can be gained by refrigeration. While refrigeration makes it possible to cut a stalk which would bloom in two days and delay bloom until as much as a week after cutting, I have never been able, as a practical matter, to gain more than about a day by forcing. The most effective means of forcing which I have found is to place the stalk in the container in a heated and humid space. I have used our powder room for this, heating the small room with an electric heater to 100 to 110 F while maintaining high humidity by wetting towels and hanging them on the towel racks. Caution: If the temperature is too high, one can "cook" the stalk. Placing the stalk in hot water is substantially less effective.

Condition and Grooming

The *Judges' Handbook* allots 25 points to these factors. In practice, many judges attach even more importance to grooming. This aspect may best be covered simply by quoting from the *Handbook*, adding my comments where appropriate.

"Condition refers to the degree of visible improvement in the appearance of the specimen stalk as a result of grooming. Grooming involves those finishing touches the exhibitor makes so that the entry presents the best possible appearance."

Stalk Height

"It is generally recommended that a stalk be exhibited at an appropriate height that is proportional. Indeed proportion is an individual perception, and the suggestion here is only to avoid extremes. Stalks can behave unpredictably in strange weather or differing climates, so very few points can be subtracted under such circumstances." Comments: We can all attest that the vagaries of the weather often result in considerable variations in the height of the stalk, this being particularly true in the case of the earlier classes, which bloom while the weather is more unsettled. In order to maintain pleasing proportion in the exhibit, it is often necessary to position the stalk in the container with the end of the stalk above the bottom of the container. Adjust the stalk until it looks good to you.

Foliage

Was all diseased foliage neatly removed or trimmed? Trimming is necessary when there is faint discoloration, disease or injury to leaf edges.

Such procedure should remove less than one-fourth inch of foliage edges and should follow the natural contour of the leaf in its entirety. Blunt edges or massive trimming is totally unacceptable.” Comments: You will have previously removed the foliage at the base of the stalk. Foliage which covers the juncture between a branch and the stalk or is at the base of a bud must be left in place although it may be trimmed.

Spathes

“If a flower has been removed, ascertain that the spathe has not been damaged and is intact. Detectable trimming of the spathe is unacceptable.” Comments: I will discuss the subject of removal of a flower and/or branch at some length following the quotations since this is of very great importance.

Branches

“A branch can be removed where a leaf conceals its connection to the stalk, but the stalk and foliage should not display any visible damage.” Comments: Suppose that you have removed a faded flower (or one that is beginning to fade). If there is an unopened bud remaining (the second bud in the socket) the branch with the unopened bud should be left in place. If there is no unopened bud, the entire branch should be removed.

Cleanliness

“The stalk, flower and blooms should be clean with no dirt, dust or spray residues. Slight smudges or fingerprints on the stalks demand little penalty and are easily removed when the exhibitor gently wipes the stalk with soft tissue.” Comments: Dirt may have been splashed on the stalk by rain prior to when it was cut. This should be removed with a damp tissue or paper towel. It is much more difficult to remove dirt from the flower, another reason for cutting the stalk before the buds open. The powdery substance naturally present on the surface of the stalk is easily disturbed in handling the stalk. If fingerprints are noticeable as a result of handling, wiping the stalk to remove all of the powdery substance is the answer.

Insects

“The presence of one or two aphids or other insects is no cause for alarm as these creatures can travel from stalk to stalk during or after entry.

Infestation, however, is obviously a totally unacceptable condition.” Comments: Many judges do consider one or two aphids or a tiny spider as “cause for alarm.” You should inspect the flowers and stalk for the presence and remove them by gently brushing. Most often, aphids will be found on the underside of the falls, escaping notice until they crawl around and become visible – to your consternation and to the disapproval of the judges.

Position in Container

“The bottom branch should be exhibited above the container’s opening. If a stalk is leaning badly, the judge should check to see if it was originally wedged properly by the exhibitor. If that is the case, the judge should ask the clerk to reposition the stalk, realizing that it could have been jarred by a placement clerk.” Comments: Be sure that you always securely wedge the stalk in the container. In practice, very nearly all judges will assume that a leaning stalk was the exhibitor’s fault, not the placement clerk’s. Never simply stick the stalk in the container without wedging. I have found that flexible foam plastic is the best material to use for wedging. It provides permanent and gentle pressure to hold the stalk in place. Foam carpet underlay is about the right consistency.

Removal of Flowers

As I indicated earlier, this is a very important subject. The *Judges’ Handbook* states: “Any flowers that appear on the specimen stalk must show no signs of aging either from natural processes or environment” and also “One fading flower on a stalk will also cost the exhibitor the loss of a substantial number of points . . .” and “As a flower ages, slightly detectable watery areas near the petal edges become visible, often causing some curing.” In my experience, the condition of the flowers is the one factor that judges pay most attention to. If one of the flowers on a stalk is aged (showing any signs of curling or showing the watery areas mentioned in the *Handbook*), it should be removed. Removal should be performed carefully so that no “stub” is visible. There is far less or often no penalty for having properly removed one flower from a stalk while leaving the good flowers in place, while, in practice, leaving a fading flower on the stalk is usually very severely penalized (no ribbon). If the only flower on the stalk is fading: Forget it! Throw the stalk away.

Frequently, we encounter an SDB stalk with two fresh flowers in which the lower of the two flowers seriously crowds the terminal flower. We could rightly maintain that this is the “normal” condition of the well-grown stalk of the variety in question. However, the great majority

of judges will severely penalize such a stalk and the exhibitor should carefully remove the lower of the two flowers. The same condition is sometimes encountered in IBs, and more often the “branches” on IBs will be extremely short and the lower bloom(s) will be crowded up against the stalk. Again, although this may be a normal condition, if it is at all severe, remove the offending flower. These are the two instances in which it is appropriate to remove a “good” flower.

Exhibition Containers

Insert the stalks into the containers in which they are to be exhibited before you leave home, wedge the stalk securely in place with plastic foam or paper (unless the show furnishes its own containers). You may also attach the entry card with a rubber band at this time.

Transporting to the Show

It is easy, after you have done everything right, to destroy your entries if you must make a sudden stop or go around a corner too rapidly. I place the containers with the stalks securely in place in plastic crates with empty bottles inserted between the full ones so that no flower can contact anything else, and so that the pack is “solid” and the bottles will not fall over in case of a sudden stop. When you get to the show and as you place your entries on the show tables, check the grooming one more time.

Clerking

Now that you have gotten your bloomstalks to the show and groomed them carefully, it is time to sit back and wait for the results. Wrong!! By enlisting as a clerk, you can learn a great deal about exhibiting and about some of the things which really count and may not be covered adequately in the *Judges' Handbook*. Although a clerk cannot discuss matters with the judges while they are judging [*ed.: unless he/she has the judges' permission to do so*], if you have clerked for them, most will be glad to discuss their decisions with you after the judging is done. Don't stop after clerking once. There is a lot to be learned and once is not enough to learn it all. You will also find that different judges often have quite different interpretations of what is in the *Handbook*.

Note from the Editor: I would like to express my very sincere appreciation to Betty Wilkerson for bringing this article to my attention. Some of the wording in the Judges' Handbook may have evolved in ensuing years, but the basic premises of this article are as valid today as they were when the article was written. ❧

Reigning Iris:

All That It Can Be (Part Two)

by Bill Rinehart, Oregon

[continued from the January issue of the Bulletin]

X. Welcome Banquet

I'm not big on banquets. Should I attend?

Attendance is not required, but you should probably attend the Welcome Banquet. It is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, the night before the garden tours begin. You may receive last minute, possibly amended instructions re: departure times, bus locations, boarding dynamics, etc.

What's this "No Host Reception" all about?

In understated prose it simply means that a bar is available in the banquet hall at 6:00 p.m. and you get to pay for your drinks.

Does everybody go?

It is the first opportunity to see everybody, to circulate, be social, be seen. In this case, because of the location of the bar, you may get to pick banquet seating in a civilized manner. Often, the banquet room is closed during the cocktail hour. In that case at 7:00 or thereabouts, the drawbridge is lowered and the running of the bulls begins.

Is there a program at the banquet?

Surprise! You will be welcomed by a small series of officials, and you will receive important instructions. The food is usually pretty good, and the company convivial.

XI. Bus Tours

Aren't all the tours optional?

Though not obligatory, almost everyone takes the garden tours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and you have paid for them if you selected the total convention package.

Then what are the “optional” tours?

There are three optional tours available. Each of the three will be conducted on Monday, May 22, and repeated on Tuesday, May 23 if reservations warrant. Since the shortest of these is 4-5 hours, no more than one per day is possible. See, you can't do it all! There is a separate additional charge for each tour. Application for the optional tours is provided on the convention registration form. This form must be received on or before May 1 if participation in the optional tours is requested.

The highly recommended optional tours are:

Tour #1: Japanese Garden, Portland Classical Chinese Garden, and the Rose Garden

Tour #2: Columbia Gorge Loop which includes Multnomah Falls, Cascade Locks and the Bonneville Dam

Tour #3: Mt. St. Helens

For pictures and additional information www.ais2006.com

How much time should I expect to be on the road each day of the Convention garden tours?

The garden tours occupy all day on three consecutive days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to late afternoon.

Coach Accommodations: These vary from vehicle to vehicle and from provider to provider. These are targeted for excursions, not basic school transportation. (i.e.: larger seats, 45-55 capacity, air/heat, toilets, speaker system, overhead racks or compartments. Buses will be locked at all stops. It is recommended that you leave possessions on the bus if you not have immediate need for them.

Contract Conditions: The drivers are professionals employed by the bus company, subject to policies of their employers, state vehicle codes, and union dictates. Your hosts have no control over employee breaks, speed of travel, or continuity of drivers or vehicles from day to day. In many cases buses will travel in flights of 3, 4 or 5 vehicles following a designated leader.

Bus Captains: These are volunteer hosts recruited by the sponsoring affiliate. In 2006, the bus captains are all Master Gardeners from the Portland Chapter. Their role is to maintain the schedule, add expertise, and to provide diversion. Please remember that these are volunteers performing a great service. Be nice.

How will I know what bus to board?

You will receive specific direction at the Welcome Banquet and perhaps on the convention website.

Please explain what the term “Guest Iris” means.

Guest iris are cultivars loaned to the hosting society for exhibition in the convention gardens. These are distributed for the enjoyment and evaluation of those who attend, and for the judges who determine the AIS awards. While the rhizomes are the property of the donor, in most instances the hybridizers release them to the convention sponsors for fundraising purposes after the conclusion of the event.

What’s for lunch?

At noon a restaurant, lodge hall, park or garden is set aside as a lunch stop. The food may be served in a buffet style, or box lunches may have been prepared, but it is universally good. Special dietary demands will be accommodated when possible, where advance notice is given.

How do we use the Convention Booklet?

Garden descriptions: Study the garden descriptions and try to remember something about each garden and your garden hosts. Some or all of the members of the host family will meet the bus and be present as you depart. It will be easier to express your genuine appreciation if you can use their names and have some hook on which to begin a conversation. I have a friend who always posted notes of appreciation on returning home after the convention. Copies of photos taken in the garden make great postcards.

Order of garden visitation: Boldly number the gardens in the order of visitation. Thus you will proceed from 1 -8 at this particular convention. This will give you an anticipation of where you are going and what you will see, but also a guide to what you have seen.

Cultivar lists: All the guest iris growing in each garden are listed in the booklet. You make notes on the exceptional cultivars, because you might want to acquire them or vote for them for awards. Not all of the irises growing in a garden are listed; the plants belonging to the garden hosts are also eligible for trek awards. If you would like to obtain or possibly vote for one of these, you would do well to note their name(s). At the bottom of the page for each garden, you should list the cultivar(s) from that garden that you consider most worthy of the awards described below. Make your final choices as soon as you can after your last garden visit on Saturday. Since the winners will be announced at the banquet a very few hours after you have returned to the hotel, it is important that you have completed your ballot and turn it in to the bus captain as you exit the bus.

Awards selected at the convention: The two awards have names, but if you don’t already know them, let’s keep it simple:

#1. The best cultivar bred by a hybridizer working *in* the host region. i.e. Region 13: Oregon, Washington and Alaska. A red dot will be affixed to the nametags of iris eligible for this award.

#2. The best cultivar bred by a hybridizer working *outside* region 13. Again, tags for eligible iris will be consistent through the gardens and different from those eligible for award #1 in that no dot will be affixed to these nametags.

The third ballot will contain your choices for the 15 favorite cultivars. This list is not always announced at the Awards Banquet as there is rarely enough time to count ballots, but it is fun and will be announced at some later date.

XII. Judges' Training

Should I attend the judges' training sessions? Why?

Yes. Sessions on garden judging are more beneficial than those on exhibition (show bench) judging, but both are of value. Judges' training is aimed at the identification of a cultivar worthy of introduction and awards for excellence. Anyone who grows iris would benefit from this information in selecting varieties for their garden or in preparing entrants for iris shows. If you are going for information only and not as a registered entrant in the program, do not sign the attendance sheet and do not turn in the test. I recommend that you take the test and stay for the correcting phase... Studies show that the testing experience in itself is an aid to recall and a valuable teaching tool.

When are the judges' training sessions held?

Sessions are scheduled for Thursday and Friday evening. See the schedule in your Convention Booklet. Topics and presenters will be shown at a later date. Check the website: www.ais2006.com

XIII. Geek Dinner and Auction

What is a Geek Dinner?

Basically it's a dinner and auction which has evolved into one of the highlights of the convention. The proceeds go to the AIS Electronic Service Fund which has been responsible for purchase of a digital projector and development of the Online Iris Database.

When is the Geek Dinner?

The Geek Dinner is scheduled for Friday evening, at an additional cost of \$28 per person.

XIV. Awards Banquet


How are the two banquets different?

They are different in that one is the anticipation of an event and the other is the wrap-up cast party. Most importantly you have an opportunity to say goodbye to people whose friendship you value, for at least another year and in some cases forever. And I say that in a celebratory not a morbid mien.

See Section X. Except for:

Award Announcements: The awards have previously been announced in the *AIS Bulletin*, on the AIS website, in Region and Affiliate Newsletters, and for those who can't wait: by SASE. Nevertheless the announcements are always breaking news to many. That says a lot about American literacy. It certainly is fitting to recognize our award-winning hybridizers and the also-eligibles. I appreciate them, every one.

I join in the expression of thanks and appreciation to those who for more years than most realize have literally hoisted the World on their shoulders and will set it down a better place.

Thank you, and my appreciation for the contributions of Barbara Aitken, Bruce Filardi, John Ludi, and Jeanne Plank in the preparation of this information. 

The 2005 Nominating Committee is seeking your recommendation of individuals you believe should be considered in the selection of nominees for the AIS Board of Directors.

The recommended nominee must be an AIS member in good standing. A Nomination should include some qualification comments. We strongly recommend that the individuals being nominated NOT be contacted in advance of the suggested nomination. The Nominating Committee will consider all candidates and then will contact the individuals that are being selected by the committee. Nominating Committee Contacts: Rita Gormley (gormleygreenery@aol.com), Bob Keup (bobkeup@email.msn.com), Jill Copeland (jandjcope@aol.com), Paul Gossett (pwgossett@juno.com), Joyce Poling (suncitymom@aol.com)

Scleranthus Annuus:

A Living, Green Mulch for Iris Beds

by Dr. Don Spoon, Virginia

The main reasons for mulching iris beds are to prevent weed germination and growth, retain soil moisture, add organics, such as humic acids, and nutrients, reduce soil erosion by rain or wind, and reduce winter cold damage and heaving. I have tried many different mulches: pine needles, chipped pine bark, shredded pine bark, single and double shredded hardwood bark, aged tree surgeon chipped refuse, composted leaves, and concrete sand. Each of these mulches has certain advantages and disadvantages, and they can be costly, requiring much effort to distribute them properly. Wouldn't it be nice if we had a living, green mulch that would be attractive as a thick ground cover, reseed itself, keep out other weeds, and have no animals that eat it? Ideally, it would offer little competition to irises and allow them to flower freely.

I believe I have found such a plant. I first encountered it at Dick Sparling's Olney, MD, garden. He grew a bluish green moss-like plant with green flowers that formed a mat 5 cm (2") high. Its bluish green color was similar to the color of iris foliage. The green flowers had five lighter edged sepals and both male and female parts, yet no petals or fragrance. Each flower produced one seed. Dick was more than glad to give me all I wanted, as he considered it a weed. I identified it as the non-native Eurasian knawel, *Scleranthus annuus*. L. The word knawel, one of its common names, comes from the German and can be pronounced different ways. As there are many plants called by their scientific genus name, such as camellias or irises, I prefer to call this plant scleranthus (pronounced scler an' thus). I planted scleranthus in some of my own TB iris beds at my Georgetown University Observatory garden (zone 7b) and selectively removed all other weeds. These beds were completely covered with a mat of scleranthus for the 1991 National AIS Convention tour guests to see. There was considerable interest in this planting as the irises growing in the mat of scleranthus were producing nice, tall bloom stalks. (In contrast, many weeds, such as grasses, tricolor violet (Johnny Jump-ups), and

chamomile cause an obvious reduction in amount of bloom in an iris bed.) In 1994 the scleranthus seeds followed us to our Winterberry Gardens in the Virginia Allegheny Highlands (zone 6b).

For ten years, I have run various experiments using scleranthus as living mulch for iris beds. Because of Ginny's concerns that it could reduce the growth of new increases with its shading and shallow root competition, we don't use it in our production beds. We do use it in some TB display beds, older seedbeds, and even some SDB beds. The large (1.8 by 6 meters, 6 by 20 feet) bed holding forty of Sterling Innerst's introductions has been in scleranthus for six years, and each year produces an abundance of tall stalks for use in hybridizing. (In this bed his modern-formed rebloomers like AGAIN AND AGAIN rebloom every fall.) Over the course of a year, this bed requires about two hours to weed. A similar sized bed without scleranthus can take ten or more hours a year to weed. I have proven to myself this similar five-fold reduction in weeding time by setting up two older iris seedbeds covered with only scleranthus beside two adjoining iris seedbeds that I kept free of weeds. Also, I set up two identical large TB beds side by side with and without scleranthus and found that scleranthus mulching reduced weeding time to a fifth.

Over the past ten years, I also experimented with many other local low growing "weeds" as green mulches, such as speedwells, euphorbias, sedums, compact chickweed species, and even scarlet pimpernel. Each of them had major problems, adequately pointed out to me by Ginny who is a degree-holding, experienced plant horticulturist. At the onset of each experiment that I carried out with my characteristic optimism, she correctly predicted the negative outcome. However, based on the results of my experiments, Ginny has become a believer in scleranthus for certain uses. She even encouraged me to write this article.

Scleranthus annuus is aptly named as its scleratized seedlings and plants are as drought resistant as irises. In our zone 6b it is an annual/biennial with seeds (about 3 mm long) that can germinate in spring, summer, fall, or winter. The largest cohort of seeds germinate in late summer after the first good rains, producing plants that can survive the winter to bloom in spring and early summer as biennials, such as foxgloves. The tiny seedlings remind one of grass seedlings as the first two seed leaves (cotyledons) are grass-like, very slender (less than 1 mm) and pointed. Remarkably, germinated seedlings are so scleratized with an impervious cuticle that they can survive weeks of drought until they resume growing when another rain finally comes. Scleranthus seedlings survive droughts that kill many other weed seedlings. Birds do not eat and distribute the seeds that lie by the thousands on the ground surface.

Birds relish other weed seeds, such as crab grass seeds, and their droppings distribute them about the garden. When the newly formed scleranthus seeds are covering the ground other weed seeds do not germinate. This suggests that the chemicals preventing the scleranthus seeds from germinating are acting as a pre-emergent on other weed seeds. When the majority of the scleranthus seeds do germinate they form a tight, interlocking mat that prevents many other weeds seeds from germinating. The scleranthus seeds are relatively heavy and are only blown a short distance from the parent plants. Nearly all the seeds on the soil surface germinate when it rains. A bed that is weeded of its scleranthus will have very few viable seeds remaining, so you can easily remove it from a bed. Also, scleranthus is highly susceptible to glyphosate (Roundup©).

Scleranthus is in the Pink or Caryophyllaceae family, with a growth form like a cushion pink, yet far more open branched and airy allowing air to easily reach the iris rhizomes growing under the mat. The slender roots of scleranthus grow down only in the center of the cushion. At the nodes of the slender stems are pairs of opposite, thin leaves (less than 1 mm wide). At the tips of the stems are clusters of thin leaves and tiny green flowers. This carpet of clusters of leaves and flowers reminds one of Irish moss. *Scleranthus annuus* is also called German moss or knotgrass. It is a native of Eurasia and has spread around the world. In North America, it is an alien weed of lawns and disturbed soils that is widely distributed yet rarely abundant, so few have experienced weeding or growing it. It grows best in moist, sandy loam soil, yet can grow in other soil types. Growing without competition a single plant can reach 50 cm (20") in diameter, yet have a central root system only 5 cm (2") across, about the size of a small orange. The thickness of the carpet rarely exceeds 5 cm (2") because of its short stem branches. This is so unlike its unsightly relative in the Pink family, common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) with long stem branches that can grow up, over, and through the tallest iris foliage, making its removal a chore.

Scleranthus has no hairs on the stems, leaves, or flowers; yet its surface has the ability, similar to the waxy surfaces of irises, to cause dew to condense on them. At night, in the summer, you can place your hand on the scleranthus mat and find it is soaking wet with dew. In the morning, when the sun burns off the dew, it is the last plant surface to dry. Possibly the scleranthus mat adds to the total precipitation in the iris bed because of this extraordinary ability to capture dew. Like an orchid, it may be receiving plant nutrients through its dew-covered surfaces, explaining its relatively tiny root system. This shallow root system creates minimal competition for the deeper root system of irises.

The thin stems easily break off with minimal injury so you can contour the mat however you wish around iris clumps. When grown in paths scleranthus can be cut with a lawn mower and not be uprooted. Yet in iris beds it takes little effort to weed it. The scleranthus green mulch reduces soil evaporation so weeds growing in the moist soil under its mat are more easily uprooted. The worms and detritus-eating insects that live in the soil under the scleranthus mat can more effectively remove dead iris leaves, spent flowers, and other debris, reducing your time spent in late fall and early spring cleanup. Beds with scleranthus trap far fewer blowing leaves among the iris leaves, further reducing your cleanup workload. In winter, the snow melts first from the beds with scleranthus.

Scleranthus seedlings that germinate and grow in paths are easily removed with a shuffle hoe, unlike deep fibrous rooted weeds like dandelions and grasses. Once disturbed and uprooted the scleranthus seedlings die. In early fall, burrowing moles create a trail of dead scleranthus seedlings that clearly delineates active burrows where traps can be set. Allowing moles to create a network of tunnels in iris beds encourages and supports infestation by voles. In just a few days a single vole can eat the roots and rhizomes of a complete iris clump leaving only a pile of dismembered, fallen fans.

Scleranthus grows best in full sun but can survive in partial or even full shade. It is a remarkably winter hardy, wintergreen plant that continues to grow under the snow, if it doesn't get too deep and covered with a heavy sheet of ice. In spring, scleranthus develops a lush, emerald green color that creates a good backdrop for photographing iris stalks and blossoms. In late June, as the spring rains are ending, the scleranthus begins to turn tan, and by July it forms a tan mat that continues to prevent other weeds from germinating. At this time, when you are dividing iris clumps, replanting, and digging for sales, scleranthus exists only as seeds and a tan mat of dried plant material. The best time to harvest the tan colored scleranthus for spreading to other beds is just before the bulk of the seeds fall to reseed the existing bed. The dried mats with attached seeds are easily removed from the bed and placed in paper sacks for storage. The seeds remain viable for at least two years. To disperse the seeds, you just crumple the masses of dried mat in your hands and let the seeds fall on the surface of the beds. No planting or cultivating is needed. Additional seeds, produced and germinating in late fall or early spring, will thicken the mats and make them at their best for the spring iris bloom season. Well-developed scleranthus plants, but not seedlings, can be transplanted throughout the year.

The scleranthus mat not only reduces erosion, especially by wind, but also holds and reduces runoff of the water that falls on raised iris beds. The mat is so sclerotized and protected by its cuticle that you can scatter granular fertilizer on it with impunity and the mat will hold the fertilizer in place as the rain dissolves the granules into the soil. I fertilize the scleranthus in the fall with dolomitic lime, phosphate, and potassium, then in spring when the irises begin growing their foliage with 10/10/10 or turf starter fertilizer mix with slow release nitrogen, followed with foliage nutrients such as Peters© or Miracle Gro© after the irises bloom, and again in early September for beds with fall rebloomers. If you sufficiently fertilize the scleranthus, there will be little competition with the more deeply rooted irises. We cannot see any difference in number, height, and bud count of stalks in beds with or without scleranthus green mulch.

A special trait of the scleranthus mat is that you can step on it with a minimum of damage. After stepping in the bed you can fluff up the mat and erase your footprint. Continued stepping on the beds will force out the trapped air bubbles in the soil that contain the essential oxygen, and both the scleranthus and irises will suffer. Occasional stepping in the iris beds needed to make crosses or photographs has little effect on the scleranthus mat.

In the summer drought months of July and August, the beds with dried, tan scleranthus mats have irises with greener foliage and less browning at the tips. This is also seen in beds that are mulched about 1 cm (1/2") deep with shredded pine bark or hardwood bark compared to beds that are not mulched. When you have three acres of iris gardens such mulching can be costly; while the scleranthus living green mulch and dead tan, summer mulch is essentially free, except for additional plant nutrients and the value of your labor. For beds where you want to hold historic, classics, and moderns for hybridizing, using scleranthus green mulching greatly reduces your time spent weeding, and the irises will bloom abundantly and normally. We have found that irises held in pots, even large and deep ones, seldom bloom and then with short, underdeveloped stalks and flowers. To put up a tall stalk a mature iris rhizome needs to be able to send down a spray of very deep anchoring roots. By using scleranthus green mulching you can increase your iris collection because you spend less time weeding.

You can minimize your late summer weeding if you let the dead, tan scleranthus mat remain in place. Its dropped seeds will germinate under the dried mat as a continuous growth. Then you remove the tan mat and carefully remove all competing weeds. This is the most important step for maintaining the scleranthus mat from year to year. You may need to

make an additional pass of light weeding in the fall and early spring. In contrast, our iris beds without a scleranthus green mulch require about 5 sessions of complete weeding each year.

Based on my experience, scleranthus is not eaten by animals, neither deer, rabbits, mice, voles, nor any insect. So far, I have seen no evidence that any animal has chewed on the living scleranthus roots, stems, leaves or flower clusters. This is probably due to its production of bitter tasting, repulsive chemicals, analogous to the alkaloids in iris plants. (We have not experimented with scleranthus as a deer deterrent for our daylilies, but it might be effective as night foraging deer rarely even enter scleranthus covered beds.) There are several uses of extracts of scleranthus in herbal medicine, for depression and various nervous disorders. Like plants and animals in tropical jungles and coral reefs that no animal eats, scleranthus may produce chemical metabolites that could be useful to humans, such as anti-cancer drugs, antibiotics, as well as safer pre-emergents, and insecticides.

I believe with *Scleranthus annuus* I have found the perfect companion plant as the best living, green mulch for iris beds in zones 6 and 7. But will it be useful in other zones and in different types of soil? Now, scleranthus is no longer a weed, for it has a useful place in our garden. It may enjoy broad usage with ornamentals as well as food crops. 🌿

A note from the AIS Scientific Committee:

After reading this very interesting article, the Scientific Committee had several positive comments and one recommendation. One member of the committee wondered where he could get seeds for this plant. Others appreciated the novel use of this plant, and its benefits in weed control. One person indicated that he would like to see a photo of an iris bed with Scleranthus annuus used in this way. The one recommendation, though, centered on the possible invasive nature of Scleranthus annuus in some areas. We recognize that this plant may be very easily controlled and does not present a problem in much of the country. However, it is listed as an invasive plant in the WEEDS OF THE NORTHEAST (1997 Cornell University Press). Also, Scleranthus annuus is on the official Noxious Weed List in the Canadian province of Alberta (http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/forests/health/w_legislation.html). Because of this listing, the committee recommends that a brief note be added to the manuscript, indicating that Scleranthus annuus may be invasive in parts of North America, and is considered a Noxious Weed in Alberta, Canada. Perhaps a suggestion that growers check with their Agriculture or Extension representatives in their area for more information on the status of Scleranthus annuus in their region would be advisable.

The Iris That Lost Its Name

by Clarence Mahan, Virginia

Louis Van Houtte's nursery introduced SANS SOUCI in Belgium in 1854. Soon after it was imported into the United States SANS SOUCI, became confused with another iris, namely HONORABILE, which was introduced in Paris in 1840 by Jean-Nicolas Lémon. SANS SOUCI is still grown all over North America and even wins top awards in iris shows, but it is almost always identified as HONORABILE.

If the iris you are growing as HONORABILE has yellow standards and "elegantly reticulated crimson-brown falls" you are probably growing SANS SOUCI. The true HONORABILE has solid red-violet falls that appear "rich mahogany-brown." How do I know this? Let me tell you.


First, the 1916 edition of Rev. C. S. Harrison's *Manual on the Iris* has a list of the names and descriptions of iris cultivars prepared by one of America's pioneer iris growers and sellers, Mrs. Jennet Dean of Moneta, California. This list includes both HONORABILE and SANS SOUCI. HONORABILE, identified by its synonym "Honorabilis" on Mrs. Dean's list, was described as an iris with yellow standards and "rich mahogany-brown" falls. Mrs. Dean's description of SANS SOUCI was that it was an iris with yellow standards and falls "elegantly reticulated crimson-brown." After the description of SANS SOUCI Mrs. Dean has this note: "True Sans Souci—not Honorabilis."

Second, there is evidence provided by Seraphin Mottet. Seraphin Mottet was not just another nurseryman or iris breeder. He was widely regarded as one of the two or three most knowledgeable authorities on irises in the world. He grew both HONORABILE and SANS SOUCI for the firm of Vilmorin-Andrieux et Cie. In the article "*Classification des Variétés d'Iris des Jardins*" in *Les Iris Cultivés*, which was published in 1923, Mottet proposed a new system for classifying garden irises based on color.

Mottet's system had eight color classes with subclasses. Mottet's Class VII was for variegata-type irises. The first two subclasses in Class

VII were for irises with pale yellow standards. One of these subclasses was for irises with pale yellow standards and falls with *distinct veins*, and an example given by Mottet was GRACCHUS. The second subclass described irises with pale yellow standards and *solid-colored* falls. Mottet cited LORELEY as an iris belonging to this subclass.

The third subclass of Mottet's Class VII was for irises with dark yellow standards and *distinctly veined* falls. Mottet assigned SANS SOUCI to this subclass. Mottet placed HONORABILE in his fourth subclass for irises with dark yellow standards and *solid-colored* falls. Thus, according to Mottet, the distinguishing color characteristic of SANS SOUCI and HONORABILE is whether the falls have distinct veins or whether they are solid-colored. If the falls have veining, the iris is SANS SOUCI.

Confucius taught that everything must have a name, and that it must always be called by this name. If we do not refer to a thing by its correct name, disorder will ensue, the bad will be preferred over the good and true knowledge will elude us. So for goodness sake, if you are growing SANS SOUCI and calling it HONORABILE go out to the garden and change the nameplate. We need all the true knowledge we can acquire, and we certainly do not need any more disorder. 

In Memoriam

Donald Copenhaver (California)

Dolores Denney (California)

Gene Gaddie (Nebraska)

Sheron Garcia-Burdelas (California)

Tall Bearded Irises in the Perennial Border:

by Bob Pries, Missouri

I have often heard comments that tall bearded irises are poor plants for the perennial border. But I believe they are one of the best perennials for the border. You may wonder how there can be such disparate views.

The American Iris Society promotes iris as garden plants, yet many members succumb to the beauty of the tall bearded iris so completely that they become collectors. Large collections are more easily maintained in “corn rows” than in perennial borders. Because they are seen growing this way so often, one might assume that they can’t be grown in gardens. In a monoculture it is easy to make the garden into a single large micro-habitat. But of course there is also the risk of attracting predators. Diversity has its own rewards.

When you are combining plants into a garden, each perennial has its own requirements to be met. Some gardeners delight in the enormous effort involved in bringing plants together that have disparate needs. For example, tall bearded irises prefer a basic soil, and full sun; rhododendrons prefer acid soil and partial shade. Trying to grow TBs next to Rhododendrons would be rather difficult, although I have seen it done. TBs are so tolerant that they might survive, but they certainly would not perform well in a situation where the Rhododendron prospers. An important factor in designing a carefree border is choosing companion plants with similar requirements. If you are determined to grow certain perennials that are incompatible with TBs, why not choose another type of Iris that would do well? Of the more than 250 iris species, there is an iris for every type of garden habitat.


There are tall bearded irises that will grow in zone 3 to zone 9, and with extra care zones 2-10. Truly, tall bearded irises could be mainstays of perennial borders in almost any part of North America. But not every cultivar prospers in every part of the country. Local iris clubs can advise which cultivars are best for their local climate. Choosing plants from a catalog based on color alone will be hit-and-miss as far as performance in your local area. But, because so many varieties seem to do well in so

many different places, we sometimes get an unrealistic expectation that every plant we buy will do well in our garden. The famous perennial nurseryman Tony Avent says: "until you have killed a particular plant 5 times you really can't say it won't do well for you." What is true of all perennials is certainly true for iris.

Iris foliage with its upright swords can be a dramatic foil for light delicate foliage of flax or columbine or the massive texture of herbaceous peonies. You could surround the iris in flax, but if you surrounded the iris with peonies you would curtail the air circulation necessary for healthy iris foliage. This might not be a problem in the great plains, but in the moist humid northwest it would certainly result in diseased TB foliage. On the other hand, Siberian Iris might be very much at home in a crowded setting.

Because irises are more adaptable than many other perennials, we often fail to respect their individual needs. Often too little consideration is given to their culture. As with other perennials, the advice of a garden writer living in the East may not be correct for the gardener living in the West. This was brought home to me when a new club member moved into our area and insisted we were growing our iris all wrong. Of course in their home area they were right, but in our climate their advice would have been disastrous. It is important to experiment and learn what works in your own garden. No one knows your garden better than yourself. Fortunately, tall bearded irises are more forgiving of mistakes than many other plants.

Although most frequently they have what seems to be beginner's luck, new gardeners are sometimes disappointed when they try TBs and have poor success in their first year. There are unusual years when climatic conditions seem to be working against a particular type of plant, and tall bearded are no exception. But if their basic requirements are being met, they will flourish!

I can remember spectacular perennial borders with peonies, oriental poppies, and tall bearded irises providing the backbone of the plantings. One of the reasons I joined the iris society was to find great cultivars for my perennial border. Soon I had all types of iris in every part of my garden. I noticed that iris nurseries have display beds involving other perennials, but irises always attracted more people. Isn't it time to celebrate iris once again as a mainstay of the perennial border? 

Request for Guest Beardless Irises

AIS Convention, Overland Park, KS 2009

The Greater Kansas City Iris Society will host the American Iris Society Convention in May 2009. Hybridizers of beardless varieties are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted guest irises will appear in the convention booklet.

Up to four rhizomes of each variety will be accepted from September 15 through October 15, 2006. Ship plants to:

Jerry Hoke
9015 Carter Circle
Overland Park, KS 66223

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:

Hybridizer's name and address

Name or seedling number of the variety


Type of iris (Sib, Spu, LA, etc)

Height, color, distinguishing features and bloom season (EML)

Year of introduction if applicable.

If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman by December 1, 2008.

A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2009, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to garden owners and the rest to the Greater Kansas City Iris Society for distribution to Region 18 Clubs. Returns will be sent freight paid except for foreign addresses.

The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. 

The New Zealand Iris Society Convention

by Carol Warner, Maryland

I was very excited about my opportunity to attend and participate in the New Zealand Iris Society's Convention in December 2005. The trip was long but the reward was well beyond my expectations. Our "Kiwi" hosts planned an optional seven-day tour of the South Island preceding the convention and then an educational four-day meeting.

Eight American visitors took the optional tour with an outstanding guide who was not only familiar with the country but also with the enormous variety of plant material grown there. Highlights of the tour included a train trip across New Zealand's Southern Alps, a day hike on the Fox Glacier, bus rides through some of the most incredible lake and mountain scenery possible, a ride on the Skyline Cableway, a dinner cruise, a cruise through Milford Sound, a fjord, and a walk through a glow-worm grotto. We even had time to take an extra jet boat tour through the area where *Lord of the Rings* was filmed, and we saw an Albatross colony and toured the Yellow-eyed Penguin Reserve. (The penguins waddle in from the sea and back to their nesting areas just like you would see in a movie. We just happened to hit the perfect time to see an incredible amount of penguins.)

Our tour group also had time to visit three gardens of members of the New Zealand Iris Society. We first saw Noel and Bev Lapham's garden. Noel hybridizes and had some very interesting seedlings in bloom, but I was most impressed with his well-grown Siberian collection. Brian and Barbara Harris' commercial garden, "Waimate", was quite interesting with a lot of the more popular U.S. introductions and the unfamiliar New Zealand hybrids. Brian has also started a large collection of Siberians. His color catalog for 2005 offers TBs and Siberians.

Gwenda Harris' garden, "Maritima", is an incredible landscape. Her combination of perennials, trees, and shrubs on a hillside were at peak bloom. Here we really saw the diversity of plant material which can be grown in their climate, which probably most resembles northern Oregon or Seattle. The 40-chromosome Siberians, Cal-sibs, setosas,

PCNs, as well as a few TBs flourish here. Roses, hebes, giant foxglove, salvia, and ten-foot high echiums attracted my attention.


The Convention, held in beautiful Lake Tekapo in the high mountain country, started on December 2nd with an informal dinner, social time, and an entertaining introduction to life on a sheep station. Iris folks are always friendly, but the Kiwis were extraordinarily accommodating and of course had morning and afternoon tea everywhere we traveled.

Saturday morning began with two lectures on the flora and fauna in New Zealand, by Joe Cartman and Michael Midgley. One of the featured speakers, Fanie Venter, then gave a slide program on hunting for Iridaceae in the mountains of southern Africa. Tony Hall, from Kew Gardens, gave an in-depth talk on his experiences growing the Western Junos. After lunch, Carla Lankow presented an excellent slide program, "An Introduction to Iris Species". Stephanie Boot and Gwenda Harris conversed about historic irises in the garden. Workshops were then held on Siberians, tall bearded, rock gardens and woodland gardens. An iris auction, dinner, and a session of short presentations of slides by several visitors completed a full day.

Sessions on Sunday, December 4th, included a judging workshop on Siberians, the annual meeting of the New Zealand Iris Society, another presentation on the Iridaceae genera of northern South Africa, Robyn Rohrlach's slide presentation on her garden in Yackandandah, Australia, and Tony Hall's presentation on the Eastern and Central Asian Junos.

On Monday, two large charter buses took us to four local gardens. Braemer Station, Carol and Duncan Mackenzie's huge rural garden features roses, irises, wonderful trees and spectacular views. Duncan gave an introduction to the farm and commented that, "Plants do better with plenty of good company". Optional workshops on hybridizing Siberians, hybridizing TBs, and photography were offered. Stowlangtoft (owned by Rosslynne Rayward), Mount Hay (owned by Helen Simpson), and Carolyn and Graeme Murray's garden all have to be seen to be believed! All have beautiful views of mountains and turquoise blue lakes, and feature companion plant material with the irises. Michael Midgley also maintained an outstanding garden adjacent to the Convention venue with guest irises, Siberians, a black and white border, rock garden, and a woodland area.

Tuesday was devoted to an alpine hike to Mount Dobson in the Two Thumb Range. After hiking to the glacier, some of us decided to skip this hike and head by bus, train and ferry to the North Island to begin a week's tour on our own there.

Some of the trees are said to grow five times faster in New Zealand, roses are certainly twice as large and tall. Foxgloves, lupines and other wildflowers grow in huge sheets covering the borders of streams and hillsides. Everywhere you look there are mountains and lakes, and the countryside is just green with diverse vegetation. Did I mention tree ferns thirty feet tall; ancient Kauri trees; the New Zealand Christmas tree, Pohutukawa, in full bloom; Manuka covered with white blooms; Cabbage Trees and Jacaranda trees in full bloom...? Of course, the best part was leaving winter behind and having long, warm spring days and an extra bloom season of irises! 

2009 Siberian/Species Convention Twin Cities Area - June 2009

Request for iris

Guest iris are needed for the 2009 Beardless Iris Convention to be held in Minnesota.

1. We will report, on the convention website, the condition of guest iris in the Fall of 2007 and 2008.
2. If a plant blooms outside convention time, photos and conditions will be reported at convention time and in a synopsis of all guests on the ISM website the Fall of 2009.
3. AIS convention bed guidelines will be followed for display of guests.

Dates for receiving guest iris:

Beginning Spring of 2006, with the latest possible receipt date the Fall of 2007. The ideal situation is to give beardless iris a full three years of growth. We will note receipt dates in the Convention catalog. We will accept either Spring or Fall shipment.

Spring Shipments (until May 15) will be accepted Spring 2006 and Spring 2007.

Fall Shipments (until September 15) will be accepted Fall 2006 and Fall 2007.

Guest Iris Registrar:

Barbara Sautner
2100 W. 106th St.
Bloomington, MN.44431-3418
bjstaxservice@aol.com
952/884-8254

Dr. Loomis Memorial Trial Gardens, 2005

Colorado Springs, CO

Carol & Russ Eacker, Directors

The idea that all of the irises have been judged in the gardens is always a good feeling! Here are the results, for all of our wonderful followers:

The third year big scorers in Tall Bearded are [1] **CARISMA (2) (Bianco) (Dr. Loomis winner)**, [2] Juke Box Hero (Lauer), [3] Duncan's Smiling Eyes (Lauer), [4] Carisma (1) (Bianco), [5] Ethereal Voices (1) (Hager).

Third year Standard Dwarf Bearded – [1] **WIZARD OF HOPE (Chapman) (Dr. Loomis winner)**, [2] Carpet Sensation (Chapman), [3] 99CC-7 (2) (Corson), [4] Pollinico (1) (Bianco), [5] Pollinico (2) (Bianco).


Third year Intermediate Bearded – [1] **GASLIGHT (Magee)**, [2] 93-571-1 (Chapman), [3] Pop Art (Sutton)

Second year Tall Bearded – [1] **LINDA DARNELL (Hedgecock) (Dr. Loomis winner)**, [2] Speaking Freely (2) (Hager), [3] Dancing Thunder (Hedgecock), [4] Dark Dancer (Hedgecock), [5] Windjammer Seas (2) (L. Johnson)

Second year Standard Dwarf Bearded – [1] **BLUEBERRY TART (Chapman)**, [2] 99-2-13 (Strohman), [3] Killarney Green (Niswonger), [4] 99-4-1 (Strohman), [5] 97-19-2 (Strohman).

First year Tall Bearded – [1] **RED MASTERPIECE (Schreiner)**, [2] 98-943 (Van Lier), [3] Vindicator (1) (K. Barnes), [4] Broken Pattern (2) (Black), [5] 98-134 (Van Lier).

First year Standard Dwarf Bearded – [1] **BOURGEOIS (1) (Black)**, [2] Fires of Fiji (2) (Black), [3] 02-SN-1 (1) (Corson), [4] Neutron (1) (T. Johnson), [5] Cliché (2) (Black)

Without the cooperation of all of the hybridizers, we would not be able to have the trial gardens; so, when you have the opportunity, please tell them how much we appreciate their support! 

In Memoriam:

Thomas Blanco White

Many members of the American Iris Society were knowledgeable of the substantive contributions to the world of irises by Anne Blanco White when the Board of Directors chose to award the Warburton Medal to Anne and Thomas Blanco White in 2000. Fewer were aware of the extraordinary contribution to iris literature and knowledge by Thomas. He was never one to boast or to advertise his many talents and achievements. He was not active in the affairs of the British Iris Society, but he sometimes accompanied his wife to various iris events, quietly and amicably charming with wit and wisdom those who knew him.

Thomas Blanco White's significant gift to iris scholarship was his translation of *The Genus Iris L.*, Dr. G. I. Rodionenko's seminal monograph on the genus, thereby making it available to non-Russian speaking scholars throughout the world. His translation was published by the British Iris Society in 1984. Anyone who is familiar with this highly technical book must stand in awe of Blanco White's accomplishment.

Those who know Thomas Blanco White only through his iris society associations were often unaware of his exceptional career in the law. He was a Queen's Counsel (QC) and one of the world's foremost authorities on intellectual property rights and patents. He wrote a number of highly regarded books on various legal subjects. His *Patents for Inventions* has gone through several editions and is considered a standard reference throughout the Commonwealth.

He was a member of Lincoln's Inn, and was before his retirement, Head of Chambers. He was keenly aware that his own high degree of specialization had delayed his career advancement. As Head of Chambers he always encouraged his juniors to acquire a wider grounding in the law than he had been afforded, and as a consequence many advanced to become judges. He was an early advocate for the use of computers and other electronic equipment in chambers. He also championed bringing more women into the law. One of his lasting regrets was that he had never been able to find a black female law student who was interested in the scientific legal subjects in which he was prepared to provide tutelage.

There is an amusing story that Anne told me about Thomas that is

indicative both of his keen intellect and taciturn nature. When he was a small boy, his parents applied for his entrance to University College School. His parents took him to the school for an interview. While his parents were talking with the headmaster, Thomas was left in a room with various reading material. Later the headmaster asked him what he had read while he was in the room. Thomas said, "Nothing."

Based on the interview, the headmaster assigned Thomas to the lowest form, or as we would say to the 1st grade. Subsequently, the school advanced Thomas rather rapidly. His parents were puzzled and went to see the headmaster. The headmaster told them that he assigned an incoming student to the grade level indicated by what the child chose to read while he was waiting. Later Thomas was asked by his parents why he had not read anything while he was in the waiting room. Thomas replied, "Baby stuff."

After attending University College School, Thomas Blanco White attended Gresham's School in Holt, and Trinity College, Cambridge. When World War II began, he was commissioned into the Royal Air Force to work on radar. He was posted first to Blackpool, later to Skye, and then to India. He was posted to Ceylon when the war in Europe ended, and he enjoyed telling how he and his mates celebrated by getting an elephant mildly drunk on beer. He did not elaborate on his own state of sobriety.

He was an avid gardener and took over from his father a cottage and land in Sussex that had strong family connections. He grew trees and shrubs that did well in heavy clay soil but that were not commonly grown in England. He was much occupied in a struggle with rabbits and deer that chose to prune his young saplings at the wrong time of the year. He placed protective wire-netting jackets over each plant, which the rabbits then learned to climb. His American daughter-in-law called his saplings in their wire-jackets his plant "petting zoo."

When his health required that he give up country gardening, he resumed his lifelong hobby of photography. He enjoyed classical music and walking. He very much enjoyed long-distance walking with old school friends. He covered much land in a short period of time. When, in middle age, Thomas was afflicted with lumbago, his clerk was heard to say that it was the first time he could walk with the QC and keep up.

Thomas Blanco White was born January 19, 1915. After a series of strokes, he died on January 12, 2006. He is survived by his wife Anne and three children, James, Susan and Henry. After much difficulty with the bureaucracy, Anne was able to register his death as required by British law. Unfortunately, the doctor misspelled the cause of death on the death certificate. Those who knew Thomas know that he would he would have had a hardy laugh over such a blunder.

Thomas Blanco White was a man of admirable humanity and compassion, a man of much talent and ability, and a man who delighted in taking himself none too seriously. We are all the poorer with his passing. His great gift to the world of irises endures.

CEM 

2006 INTRODUCTIONS from David and Anna Cadd

Cool Sensation: (Cadds 2006). BB. 26" (69 cm.). Midium. Standards are ruffled pastel blend of lavender lilac and delicate pink with lavender midrib; style arms are soft yellow with lavender flush. Falls are cool lilac purple luminata, white ground with darker lilac purple shoulders and border, lighter around the beard and with distinguish line in the center of the falls. White beards, tipped 1/2 lavender on end and 1/2 old gold in throat. Strong, musky fragrance. Good grower with nice branching and 6-7 buds. Needlepoint x Shenanigan. Sdlg: 45-92-15 \$ 15.00

Wind Singer: (Cadds 2006). BB. 26" (68 cm.). Midium. Standards and style arms are deep gold yellow with the light raspberry line in midrib. Falls are fancy white raspberry plicata with darker markings on edges and shoulders and 1/4" to 1/3" raspberry border; with neon flush in center of falls, lighter around the deep yellow beard, tipped lavender. Purple markings on stocks. Strong, sweet fragrance. Good grower with nice branching and 6-7 buds. Needlepoint x Shenanigan Sdlg: 45-92-11 \$ 15.00

Wine Escapade: (Cadds 2006). BB. 27" (69 cm.). Midium. Standards are light reddish burgundy brown, with lighter yellow flush in center; style arms are yellow with light burgundy brown on midribs. Falls are creamy white with deep burgundy fancy Plicata markings and darker solid 1/2" border and centerline from yellow beard to the end of the falls. Strong sweet fragrance. Good grower with nice branching and 6-7 buds. Reeblooms in California. Received Exhibition Certificate (EC) in Fresno Iris Society Show and National Convention in 2004. Shenanigan x Tennison Ridge. Sdlg: 62-92-2 \$ 15.00

Carousel of Delight: (Cadds 2006). SPU. 43"-44" (109-112 cm.). Midium. Standards are very tall, upright, smoky reddish lavender with yellowish brown lines in center. Style arms are lavender white. Falls are deep yellow with smoky lavender border and gold brown lines, giving the appearance of brown overlay on 2/3 of the falls. Highland Halo x Marilyn Holloway. Sdlg: SPU 16-91-9. \$ 15.00

Cosmic Impact: (Cadds 2006). SPU. 38"-40" (97-101 cm.). Midium. Standards are reddish dusky lavender with darker lavender lines . Style arms are darker lavender with tan edges. Falls are light lavender with big blending velvety old gold signal, darker in center and gold-lavender lines . Very nice, short Spuria with 4-5 buds and nice, strong upright leaves.

Blue Lassie x Social Lady. Sdlg: Spu 8 - 91 - 3. \$ 15.00

Lemon Chiffon Pie: (Cadds 2006). SPU. 40"-41" (102-105 cm.). Midium. Ruffled creamy yellow self with big gold signal, blending to cream. Tall Spuria with nice strong leaves and 6-7, sometimes 8 buds. Flowers are very big, about 6" across. Very floriferous. Media Luz x Candle Lace. Sdlg: SPU 21-91-5 \$ 15.00



ANNA AND DAVID CADD
CADD'S Beehive Iris Garden

329 North St, Healdsburg, CA 95448 Tel. (707) 433-8633
 caddsirir@comcast.net

Excerpts from a letter received on 2/2/06 from William D. Aley, USDA/APHIS

I wanted to let you know that at the headquarters level we looked into this and have made attempts to simplify and clarify the import requirements. As a side note, this time last year our staff was one Staff Officer... Our management has made some dynamic reorganization and we currently have three Senior Staff Officers assigned to the plants for planting staff. Sometimes change occurs in the government where it is needed most.

Bulbs become difficult for us to regulate universally because of the complexity of the plant parts and the diversity of what is perceived as a bulb, especially when the plant part is an underground or near-underground propagative part – from true bulbs to rhizomes, etc. When that part is very dormant, with no signs of growth, then no permit is required. When there are more than 12 units in a shipment, the requirement is to have the commodity inspected at a plant inspection station. The decision of 12 was one that was made many years ago and has been incorporated into the CFRs. It was made to facilitate the inspection process.

When the plant part has vegetative or growing parts, then it is viewed as a plant rather than a dormant bulb. (Part of the discussions between lumpers and splitters!) At the time a decision was required, this was the decision made: *If the plant part is more active in growth than a dormant bulb, then it is viewed as a plant.*

Plants require import permits.

So to your questions, there is both a **yes** and a **no**.'

Do irises require an import permit?

Yes, when Iris plants are showing signs of vegetative growth (a perception call; viewed at the time of inspection and based upon the judgment of the inspector), they require an USDA Import permit (because they will be regulated as a vegetative plant).

Guidelines for clearing bulbs:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/manuals/port/pdf_files/ClearingFlowerBulbs-CBP.pdf

No, when the dormant plant part or rhizome of an iris does not have *any* signs of vegetative growth, no permit is required.

How does one go about getting an import permit for irises?

Anyone can apply for a permit, and probably the best way to make sure you get your plants is to have a permit so you can get them both ways. Apply for a permit for non-dormant Iris rhizomes and Iris plants free of soil. This would be more than adequate for the dormant rhizomes and any of those that may have vegetative growth.

Go to:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits/plantproducts/nursery.html>

The form you will need is PPQ Form 587; click on that link and you will be able to print out the application form.

A permit is not necessary for *dormant* rhizomes, but if rhizomes are sent which only have the tops cut and roots removed, you'll want to have a permit to make sure that you get your plants. Say you ordered a species of *iris germanica*, and it is harvested in August and sent to you in September. The exporter felt like they would do more than send you a single rhizome, so they sent you a fat clump with the tops cut and ready to grow (of course, washed and consequently enterable). *This would appear to the inspector as more than a dormant rhizome; the inspector would view it as showing signs of vegetative growth.*

Apply for a permit for non-dormant underground portions of herbaceous perennial plants and indicate that you will import more than 12 at a time. This may help especially for Iris which have a tendency to look vegetative even when dormant. The officers will go on the most restrictive side to make a decision. The permit just allows you some leeway.

I hope this helps with future shipments; our goal is not to reject because we can! We try to keep out the unknown pests and diseases of foreign origin. In the old days everything was subjected to a heavy methyl bromide fumigation and if it lived, then the macro pests at least were dead. Now that we are a little more cognizant of pests and diseases, the agency allows more plant parts to be imported with fewer restrictions. Finding a solid line in the grey area of decision-making between enterable and rejected may not always be very clear, but we are working toward that goal.

Editor's Note: We thoroughly appreciate Mr. Aley's time and help in making this clear. I am applying for my import permit by today's mail! If readers have any further questions for Mr. Aley, you may e-mail him at William.D.Aley@aphis.usda.gov, or reach him by phone at (301) 734-8758. 🌸

Questions & Anthers

Q: In temperate zones, when you plant rhizomes kind of late that have some brown edges on the leaves (new growth desiccated from neglect), do you just “leave the leaves” as is, or do you do a fan-style trim? Put another way, at what point is it too late to trim leaves?

From Bruce Filardi, Oregon:

FYI, I trim back pretty severely, no matter how late I plant; I figure that unhealthy foliage doesn't do the plant any good in terms of producing nutrients, and, if anything, it adds to the risk of spreading disease. But that's just my own method; I'll pass this question on to others for their input. Aside from what I said earlier, there's also the aesthetic consideration, because irises just look much better in a garden setting when they don't have a lot of dead foliage around. I've noticed that some of the “traditional” wisdom is based on field growing conditions, but personally I feel that there are different priorities in a home garden. Until recently, I had a planting of about 800 TBs by the street in front of my house; if I had treated it the same way that the big growers treat their fields, it would have been a neighborhood eyesore for much of the year. That's where I started to realize that - in a garden setting - sometimes there have to be different rules of culture. Nowadays I treat my field the same way, just because I'm sort of a neatnik and it looks so much cleaner and more attractive -- even if it means constant work!

From Clarence Mahan, Virginia:

My question would be: “Why do it?” Any injury in freezing weather, such as imposed by cutting leaves, could induce rot in the leaves. Irises are tough, but I would not do it.

From Keith McNames, Oregon:

My reply is to trim back in a new V shape thus eliminating the brown/dead leaves. Naturally, when the plant gets established and starts to grow all the old leaves will eventually die off and get removed.

What is the stigma? Exactly what part of it do you spread the pollen on? How do you know if the anther has pollen? How long does it take for a seed pod to mature? Some helpful information I was given was that crosses made on old blooms rarely take. Because their stigma's surfaces cease to be receptive and hold pollen; best to cross first-day blooms for pod parents, and to wait until anthers of pollen parent have fluffy pollen before using it, but waiting too long may result in dried out anthers. Is this correct?

From Keith Keppel, Oregon:

The female part of the flower is the pistil, an easily remembered term for senior citizens who recall the hit song “Pistol-Packin' Mama”. The pistil is composed of the ovary, which has the potential to develop

into a seed pod, and the stigma, where pollen is accepted to effect fertilization. Connecting the ovary with the stigma is the style.

In irises, the style is divided into three parts (style arms), flattened structures that arch up and out from the ovary. At the end of each arm is a flared tip (style crest). Slightly below the crest, on the underside of the style arm, is a smallish flap, the stigmatic lip.

The upper side of the stigmatic lip is where pollen grains must be placed to begin the fertilization process. To be receptive, the lip should be fresh and moist... you can actually see a glistening of the surface. Since this moisture is necessary to germinate the pollen grains, crosses should be made on flowers as fresh as possible. The exact length of time the moisture remains depends on several factors, including air humidity, heat and wind.

The male part of the flower is the stamen, composed of the thin stalk (filament) and expanded portion at the end (anther) which usually contains pollen. The anther has two pollen sacs which split open as the pollen ripens. When they first begin to split, the pollen may still be wet and clumpy, not fully ripe. Wait until the pollen is fluffy. Do not use it if wet from rain or dew. If it has been wet and dried, it will appear caked, rather than fluffy. A good rule of thumb: if you rake an anther across your arm and the pollen adheres to the hairs, it is probably ready to be used.

From Pat Otterness, Virginia:

When I was starting out as a hybridizer, the most helpful information I was given (by Bill Maryott) was that crosses made on old blooms rarely take. Their stigma's surfaces cease to be receptive and hold pollen. Best to cross first-day blooms for pod parents, and to wait until anthers of pollen parent have fluffy pollen before using it, but waiting too long may result in dried out anthers.

Q: Should I put dolomite [lime] on my PCNs, too?

From Bruce Filardi, Oregon:

NO!!! My general rule-of-thumb is to use dolomite (or other lime materials) on bearded but never on beardless. There may be exceptions to the rule, but for general use, I think that's a good way to remember it.

From Terry Aitken, Washington State:

Since PCs thrive in a coastal marine climate most generally associated with acid soils, dolomite probably won't help. I can't speak for those varieties that grow in the Sierra, which might be drier and less acid. In the Pacific Northwest, PCs are perfectly happy with Ph 6 or lower to Ph 5.5.

Q: Why is a bearded iris, unlike a beardless iris, eligible for an Honorable Mention award the second year after introduction when that means very few judges will have had a chance to see it performing in the garden for two consecutive years? Would it not be fairer for bearded irises to become eligible in the third year like beardless irises?

From Awards Chair Roy Epperson, North Carolina:

The AIS Board of Directors has sole responsibility for setting policy, establishing rules and implementing procedures for The American Iris Society's awards for irises.

Prior to the 1985 Edition of *The Handbook*, the requirement for eligibility of introduced irises for the HM Award was "Eligible for this award (HM) is any officially registered iris introduced to commerce at least one year prior to the voting year." The 1985 *Handbook* states: "An officially registered and introduced iris in any of the established classifications listed becomes eligible for the Honorable Mention (HM) Award the second year after its year of introduction to commerce." At the Fall 1990 Board of Directors' meeting, President Waite appointed a committee to study the entire awards system. At the Fall 1991 meeting, the committee proposed: "Each class of irises shall become eligible for the HM award the third year following introduction." After lengthy discussion of the committee's complete report, "Mahan moved, Jones seconded, that the proposal, as presented by the committee headed by Copeland, be accepted; but not implemented until 1993 and with a minimum of two HMs in any class. Corlew proposed an amendment, seconded by Mahan, that the waiting period for HM eligibility for bearded irises be two years instead of the three years proposed. The beardless iris waiting period would remain at three years. The amendment was passed. The question was called and the amended motion was passed." Action taken at the Fall 1992 Board meeting: "Waite moved, Corlew seconded, that both bearded and beardless become eligible for an HM Award two years after introduction. Motion defeated. Rasmussen moved, Witt seconded, that both bearded and beardless irises become eligible for an HM Award three years after introduction. Motion defeated. Stahly moved, Jones seconded, that those irises eligible in two years for HM Awards be TB, BB, IB, SDB, MDB, MTB, Aril and Arilbred. All other classes, as registered by the introducer, become eligible for HMs in three years. Motion carried."

The 1998 (and 2006) *Handbook* state: "An officially registered and introduced iris in the classification of TB, BB, IB, SDB, MDB, MTB, Aril and Arilbred becomes eligible for the Honorable Mention (HM) Award the **second** year after its year of introduction to commerce. All other classes, as registered by the introducer, become eligible for the HM Award the **third** year following introduction."

from Jeanne Clay Plank, California:

Roy's answer is absolutely correct and complete in how we arrived at this rule. Behind all of this, however, I believe there is an additional factor.

In the minds of many, and not without reason, it is believed that it takes beardless iris additional time [3 years is a time period (surprisingly enough) stated by many] to become established and perform at full

continued bottom of page 107

Calling All Judges!

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

All readers, please note: *This article is not just for judges.* It is for all AIS members; those of you who are not judges should hold the judges accountable for their votes!

It had been my intention to write this article as my Editor's Message in the July issue of the *Bulletin*. However, as we are putting the final touches on the April issue, I feel compelled to tackle this subject NOW, before another iris season – and another season of voting – go by.

A few days ago, I was deeply troubled to learn that a friend – an excellent, demanding, conscientious AIS judge and a superb gardener – has resigned as a judge because he feels that *the AIS judges are not doing their job*. He says that far too many undeserving irises are receiving awards. Personally, I feel that his decision is a mistake, because the last way to improve a situation is to abrogate one's own participation – and the loss of his worthwhile votes will only make the situation worse!

Judges: When you complete your AIS ballot: VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE! Vote according to the *Handbook for Judges*. When you became a judge, you agreed, both implicitly and explicitly, to vote according to the official guidelines in the *Handbook*.

I'd like to discuss just one section of the 2006 AIS Ballot: the list of eligibles for the Wister Medal.

As a quick – and slightly over-simplified – explanation for non-judges:

10% of all TBs receive an HM (Honorable Mention). The ones which win the HM are automatically eligible to appear, for three years, on the list of those that are then eligible to win an AM.

10% of the HM winners receive an AM (Award of Merit).

All TB AM winners become eligible for the Wister Medal, for a period of three years. Three of the eligibles are awarded a Wister Medal each year.

The three winners of the Wister Medal each year then advance to be eligible for the Dykes Medal (the highest award for *any* iris) for three years.

Mathematically, this means that when the judges award an HM to an iris, they are saying that it is among the top 10% of all irises in its class. *When the judges award an AM to an iris, they are saying that the iris is in the top 1% of its class.* (In other words, if it is in the top 10% of the top 10%, it is thus in the top 1%.) That means that every iris that is eligible for the Wister Medal has already won its AM and is thus one of the top 1% of all TBs in existence.


There are 60 irises on the 2006 list of eligibles for the three Wister Medals to be awarded this year. My personal opinion is that at least 12 of these 60 irises (a full 20%) are Dykes Medal-worthy irises – so any or all

of those 12 certainly deserve a Wister Medal and the chance to later win the Dykes Medal. I'm not saying that they all *will* win the Wister; I'm just saying that, in my opinion, the list contains 12 cultivars of Dykes quality.

Looking further at the list of 60 Wister eligibles, of course I see many fine cultivars (as I should!). The upsetting thing is that I also see *at least six irises (10%) which should not be on the list* because they should not even have won an AM. Is this simply my opinion? NO! These six irises should have been eliminated by *all* judges before they reached the Wister list because either a.) they do not have the minimum required budcount (7 buds), or b.) they do not perform in the garden with even average health and vigor, or c.) they do not stand up without staking. *This is not just my opinion!*; these are facts that *every* judge should have observed before he/she voted for any of these six plants. Remember: A judge is supposed to vote according to the guidelines in the *Handbook for Judges*.

In the July issue, after the judges have filed their ballots but before I have seen the results, I will reveal both my *votes* and my *predictions* for the Dykes Medal and the Wister Medal. Yes, I will name names!

In closing, I will ask each and every judge to examine his/her conscience before voting in *any* category this year. As many wise judges have told me: "If you like an iris, by all means grow it. But only vote for it if it meets the criteria." Vote for irises that *deserve* your votes; don't vote for an iris just because you happened to see it looking great at a National Convention, or because you like its color or its hybridizer or its name!

Judges: VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE! 

continued from page 105

ability. Many knowledgeable Irisarians believe that most bearded irises (in most environments) will develop into a full-ability clump by two years, so that what you view in that two-year old clump should be representative of what that cultivar is capable of producing.

This is arguably true, but it is valid enough to carry merit.

For most bearded iris becoming eligible for an HM in two years following introduction is not really a "handicap." It's not necessarily an advantage either since it may produce a false (positive or negative) response from judges, but even that response is not written in stone. A poor quality HM winner need go no further in the awards system, and an overlooked candidate has many years to redeem itself and may go on to become an award winner.

The two different entry levels were really supposed to help the beardless become better established and better distributed before being evaluated for an HM. For one thing, beardless distribution is far less widespread than bearded -- and beardless irises, once established, have a far longer "shelf-life" than bearded. It is not unfair to say that even in a general iris collector's garden, one is more likely to find a higher percentage of older beardless irises among a beardless iris collection, than the percentage one is likely to *find* of comparably-aged, non-Dykes medal winning bearded iris in a bearded iris collection. (I am, of course, excluding the historical iris specialists.)

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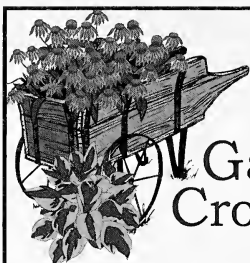
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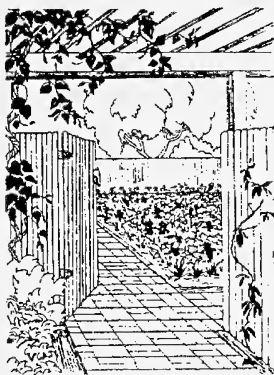


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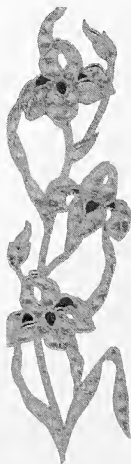


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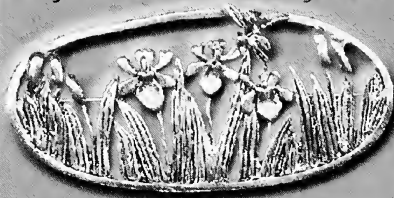
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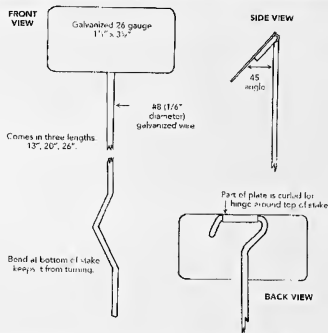
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Dwarf Iris Society:

Ginny Spoon, 1225 Reynolds Road, Cross Junction, VA 22526; <vspoon@aol.com>

Kathie Kasperek, 9130 North 5200 West, Elwood, UT 84337-8640; <zebrairis1@aol.com>

Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises:

Richard C. Richards, 5885 Cowles Mt. Blvd., La Mesa, CA 91942; <mongo2u@cox.net>

Terri Hudson, 33450 Little Valley Rd., Fort Bragg, CA 95437; <irishud@earthlink.net>

Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA):

Will Plotner, P.O. Box 250, Molalla, OR 97038-0250; (503) 829-3102; <gardens@molalla.net>

Rodney Barton, 3 Wolters St., Hickory Creek TX 75065; <rbarton@hsc.unt.edu>

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS):

Donna James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074; <ron2don@alltel.net>

Judy Eckhoff, 7911 S. Yoder Road, Haven, KS 67543; <judy@msinter.net>

Cooperating Societies:

Aril Society International:

Pat Toolan, P.O. Box 568, Angaston, S.A. 5353, Australia; <pattoolan1@bigpond.com>

Reita Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107; <sjordan@unm.edu>

Society for Louisiana Irises:

Paul Gossett, 129 East 33rd Place, Tulsa OK 74105-2542; <pwgossett@juno.com>

Richard Sloan, 118 East Walnut, Alma AR 72921; <rjsloan@mynewroads.com>

Section Membership Rates: (Contact Section for overseas postage rates)	<i>single annual</i>	<i>single triennial</i>	<i>dual annual</i>	<i>dual triennial</i>
Median Iris Society	\$8.00	20.00	9.00	23.00
Society for Siberian Iris	5.00	13.00	6.00	15.00
Spuria Iris Society	9.00	20.00	12.00	24.00
Society for Japanese Iris	5.00	12.50	6.00	15.50
Reblooming Iris Society	7.00	18.00	8.00	21.00
Society for PCNs	8.00	20.00	10.00	23.00
Species Iris Group	9.00	24.00	10.00	25.00
Dwarf Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	10.00	24.00	12.00	30.00
Aril Society International	10.00	28.00	13.50	33.50
Society for Louisiana Irises	13.00	32.00	16.00	44.00

Regions & Regional Vice Presidents

- 1: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island:** David Nitka, 589 North Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-1309; (413) 786-5344; <nitka@att.net>
- 2: New York:** Robert Keup, PO Box 24, Kinderhook, NY 12106-0024; (518) 758-7157; <rakeup@aol.com>
- 3: Pennsylvania and Delaware:** Jason Leader, 9328 Forest Road, Glen Rock, PA 17327; (717) 428-2068; <jaleader@aol.com>
- 4: Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina:** Jerry Coates, 120 Record Street, Frederick, MD 21701; (301) 662-1664; <jcoates694@aol.com>
- 5: South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Puerto Rico:** Carolyn Hawkins, 7329 Kendel Court, Jonesboro, GA 30236; (770) 471-2841; <crh9999@comcast.net>
- 6: Ohio, Indiana and Michigan:** Judy Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Road, East Williamston, MI 48895; <cyberiris@cablespeed.com>
- 7: Tennessee and Kentucky:** Hugh Thurman, 521 Kickapoo Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601; (502) 695-1506
- 8: Minnesota and Wisconsin:** Ledra Mohrmann, 133 West Park Drive, Marshall, WI 53559-9718; (608) 655-4085
- 9: Illinois:** Ernie Henson, 6401 Cedar Road, Iuka, IL 62849-2815; <erni@midwest.net>
- 10: Louisiana:** Joe Musacchia, 509 Linda Ann Avenue, Gray, LA 70359; (985) 872-1962; <joem@sw.rr.com>
- 11: Idaho, Montana and Wyoming:** Ann Violette, 228 Mud Lake Trail, Polson, MT 59860; (406) 883-5535; <aviolette@montanasky.net>
- 12: Utah:** Leon Robertson, 10044 Remembrance Lane, South Jordan, UT 84065; (801) 446-3727; <landarob@xmission.com>
- 13: Washington, Oregon and Alaska:** Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th Street, Vancouver, WA 98685-3802; (360) 573-4472; <terry@flowerfantasy.net>
- 14: Northern California, Nevada and Hawaii:** Betty Coyle, 107 Harlan Way, Fortuna, CA 95540; (707) 725-3130; <theirslady2@aol.com>
- 15: Southern California and Arizona:** Kathy Chilton, 14333 S. Stagecoach Road, Tucson, AZ 85736; (520) 822-1497; <ranchiris@aol.com>
- 16: Canada:** Chris Hollinshead, 3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5N 2K3; (905) 567-8545; <wolf-com@rogers.com>
- 17: Texas:** Dana Brown, RR 3, Box 118-H, Lubbock, TX 79401-9730; (806) 746-6002; <danabrown@peoplepc.com>
- 18: Kansas and Missouri:** Rita Gormley, 6717 Martha Drive, Cedar Hill, MO 63016-5202; (636) 274-7435; <gormleygreenery@aol.com>
- 19: New Jersey:** Vince Lewonski, 509 S. Bishop Avenue, Secane, PA 19018; (610) 623-3921; <dragonboatv@hotmail.com>
- 20: Colorado:** Steve Blecher, 1309 Ridge Road, Littleton, CO 80120-3231; (303) 798-9103; <sblecher@comcast.net>
- 21: Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota:** Gary White, 701 Old Cheney Road, Lincoln, NE 68512; (402) 421-6394; <in2iris@yahoo.com>
- 22: Arkansas and Oklahoma:** Carol Goldsberry, 1606 East Central Avenue, Ponca City, OK 74604-5205; (580) 765-2390; <irisgal@cableone.net>
- 23: New Mexico:** Pegi Naranjo, 3102 North Montana, Roswell, NM 88201; (505) 622-0648; <pegi@dfn.com>
- 24: Alabama and Mississippi:** Janice Tate [*pro tem*], 11510 River Road, Hamilton, AL 35570; (205) 921-3767; <jantate@peoplepc.com>

President's Message

by Jeanne Clay Plank, California

Arousing "thank you" to John Ludi and all the folks in Region 13 who created the 2006 AIS National Convention in Portland, Oregon. Irisarians saw amazing flowers, embraced old friends, made new ones, and welcomed more than 38 overseas attendees.

This was one of AIS's largest Spring conventions with nearly 900 eager Irisarians registered and longing-to-see-flowers; the organization and management of this 2006 gathering was exceptional. Special notice should be given to the handling of the convention tour busses. The innovative way of loading busses, combined with routes that were choreographed like a *Cirque du Soleil* production, produced a remarkably unstressful experience for Trekkers. Everything that could be done was done to provide Trekkers with the best. World-renowned gardens, exceptional side trips, outstanding programs and training sessions, a hugely successful Silent Auction and an equally entertaining and successful Geek dinner combined to produce a near-perfect week of iris enjoyment, outstanding in every way.

"Reigning Irises" turned into "rain-on irises," however, as that great uncontrollable force, Oregon weather, followed Conventioneers from garden to garden, offering intermittent rain, sometimes with cold, sometimes with wind. Such shenanigans may have dampened shoes, umbrellas and parkas, but *certainly did not* dampen the spirit of Irisarians, long noted for their devotion when it comes to viewing irises in weather conditions less than kind to man and iris.

On another front, the efforts of General Secretary Patricia Randall and Electronic Services Chair John Jones combined to make AIS Board business sessions run more smoothly than usual, which allowed Board members the uncommon luxury of face-to-face discussions on some complicated issues. Through the use of electronic technology, Board members were able to send, receive and study Board reports in advance of the meeting. Paper shuffling was almost non-existent;



Jeanne Clay Plank

printed reports were not read aloud; salient points were addressed immediately, conserving valuable discussion time which was then available for complicated subjects like *Judges' Handbook* revision points, the long-range impact of AIS liability insurance on the AIS budget and how to finance those costs, and of course, the AIS budget. A variety of creative ideas addressing membership recruitment and renewals were examined. The meeting was productive and ended with time to spare!

One can only conclude that the 2006 AIS Convention was remarkable (even the weather) and a huge success!

Note: Did you forgot to turn in your 2006 Convention Survey, or perhaps you neglected to fill it out at all? If so, please do so now and mail it to Bob Pries, 6023 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049. (I will accept them, too.) ❧

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An iris garden at the Florence Convention

Annual President's Letter

The American Iris Society

by Jeanne Clay Plank, California

June 1, 2006

Each year the terms of office expire for one third of the twelve directors of the American Iris Society; and four are elected to fill those positions. As provided in the AIS Bylaws, a five member Personnel Committee recommends to the AIS Board of Directors a selection of candidates for nomination as directors. From this list the incumbent Board of Directors chooses by written ballot the slate of four candidates to be presented to the membership.

The Personnel Committee consists of five members selected to serve each year from their parent body: two directors selected by the Board of Directors, two RVPs selected by the Board of Counselors, and one section representative by the Section Advisory Board.

Approved during the 2006 spring meeting held in Portland, Oregon, in accordance with the AIS Bylaws, the following four individuals are the 2006 nominees for regular three-year terms expiring in the fall of the year 2009:

- Candidate #1 Donna James (Reg. 2)
- Candidate #2 John Jones (Reg. 14)
- Candidate #3 Brad Kasperek (Reg. 12)
- Candidate #4 Joyce Poling (Reg. 15)

The Bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received the AIS Secretary on or before August 31, 2006. Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before September 30, 2006, to all AIS members and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before October 29, 2006. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected.

Jeanne Clay Plank, President

Editor's Message

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

National Convention '06 is behind us. All of us here in Portland can breathe a sigh of relief! We wish the weather had been better, but at least the rain was gentle enough to allow the blooms to remain in good shape. Thank you to all who visited us in Portland! And thank you to all who worked so hard to make the Convention a success, especially Convention Chair John Ludi and the host gardens.

My article "Calling All Judges" in the April issue of the *Bulletin* evoked several responses which are worth sharing. If space allows, some will be printed in this issue or the September issue.

Speaking of the "Calling All Judges" article, as promised, here are my votes and predictions for this year's top AIS awards. Note that I am writing this after sending in my official ballot, and before seeing any results.

Dykes Medal:

Thoughts: This list contains many fine, deserving irises [as it should!] – and not just TBs; in the past I have voted for an AB on two different occasions. Nevertheless, this year it came down to two TB finalists for me.

Dykes vote: DIABOLIQUE

Prediction: SEA POWER

Comments: Both of these irises are thoroughly worthy of the DM; SEA POWER was my other finalist.

Wister Medal:

Thoughts: See "Calling All Judges" in the April '06 *Bulletin*.

Votes (3): HUCKLEBERRY FUDGE, SMILING FACES, VIENNA WALTZ

Predics (5): CHASING RAINBOWS, GOLDEN PANTHER, QUEEN'S CIRCLE, RING AROUND ROSIE, STARRING

Comments: Among these eight irises (3 votes, plus 5 predictions), there are at least five that deserve a Wister, and a very strong argument could be made for two more of them.

The results of the voting will be slotted into this issue as it goes to press, so turn to "Late-Breaking News" to find out what kind of oracle I would make.

Last but not least, the April issue of the *Bulletin* included a very positive article by Bob Pries about the role of bearded irises in the

garden. The July issue includes a less positive article on a similar topic. Entitled "Food for Thought," it may provoke some controversy and even some anger; but it raises a few questions that deserve our attention. ❧



Editor Filardi
with Valeria
Romoli, Director
of the Florence
Iris Competition,
at the Awards
Luncheon in
Florence, 2005.

[photo: Foss]

Late Breaking News

As this issue goes to press, Dr. Epperson has provided us with the list of the AIS Medal Winners for 2006:

Dykes Medal: SEA POWER (Keppel)

Wister Medal (TB): QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Kerr), GOLDEN PANTHER (Tasco), HAPPENSTANCE (Keppel)

Knowlton Medal (BB): ANACONDA LOVE (Kasperek)

Sass Medal (IB): MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Baumunk)

Williamson-White Medal (MTB): BAUBLES AND BEADS (Miller)

Cook-Douglas Medal (SDB): RUBY ERUPTION (Chapman)

Caparne-Welch Medal (MDB): AFRICAN WINE (Kasperek)

White Medal (AR & AB): OMAR'S STITCHERY (Boswell)

Mohr Medal (AB): WALKER ROSS (Ross)

Founders of SIGMA Medal (Spec): JOHN WOOD (Wood)

Mitchell Medal (CA): COZUMEL (Ghio)

DeBaillon Medal (LA): PEACHES IN WINE (Prior)

Morgan-Wood Medal (SIB): RIVERDANCE (Schafer/Sacks)

Nies Medal (SPU): ADRIATIC BLUE (Niswonger)

Payne Medal (JI): TBA

Walther Cup (Most HM votes in any category): DECADENCE (Blyth)

International News

by Anna & David Cadd, Editors caddsiriris@comcast.net

International Meeting at the National AIS Convention in Portland, Oregon, 2006

by Anna Cadd

On May 24, 2006, just before the opening Banquet, I was invited as one of the International Editors to attend the Meeting for the International Guests attending the Convention. Almost all of our guests were present, and AIS President Jeanne Plank welcomed the representatives from eleven countries: Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. All of the attendees were introduced and given a sincere welcome to the Convention. In a short presentation, Bruce Filardi expressed thanks for their attendance and their activities in the world of iris lovers. But the most interesting part were the conversations among all the guests after the meeting: we all stood in groups and talked to old and new friends long after the meeting. How wonderful it is when we can meet one another, speak this same language, and later continue our communication via the internet! Our shared love of one flower and gardening made it all possible and made the whole world a little smaller!

50th Anniversary of the Iris Trials in Florence, Italy

The second week of May marked the Golden Anniversary of the Italian Iris Society's internationally famous Iris Trials. Dave Schreiner had the honor of being a judge at the Iris Trials, one of a seven-person panel of international Iris aficionados, which included Cy Bartlett (Great Britain), Richard Cayeux (France), Sergey Loktev (Russia), Alison Nicoll (New Zealand), Valeria Roselli (Italy), and Angela Salerno (Italy). The first place award went to Italian hybridizer Mauro Bertuzzi for RECONDITA ARMONIA.

"Iris delice," the first iris-flavored handmade chocolate praline, has

just been created in Florence by our friend and member Barbara Golini. This was a special sweet way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Iris Garden and its world famous international competition. If you want to know more: www.irisdelyce.com

Following are the official results of the International Competition in Florence for 2006, plus one late prize announced for 2005:

- 1st Place: RECONDITA ARMONIA (Mauro Bertuzzi, Italy)
- 2nd Place: HIGH CLASS (Paul Black, USA)
- 3rd Place: MYTHOLOGY (Tom Johnson, USA)
- 4th Place: VIOLA DI NUOVO (Stefano Gigli, Italy)
- 5th Place: ALPENVIEW (Keith Keppel, USA)
- 6th Place: seedling DL-4-2KS (Anton Mego, Slovakia)
- 7th Place: OPPOSING FORCES (Keith Keppel, USA)
- 8th Place: JUNE BRAZIER (Graeme Grosvenor, Australia)
- 9th Place: PAGAN'S MAIDEN (Anna & David Cadd, USA)
- 10th Place: ADLEMI (Graeme Grosvenor, Australia)

Special Prizes:

- Best Red Variety: BAGNOLO (Antonella Affortunati, Italy)
- Best Commercial Variety: OPPOSING FORCES (Keith Keppel, USA)
- Best Italian Variety: RECONDITA ARMONIA (Mauro Bertuzzi, Italy)
- Best Branched Variety: seedling DL-4-2KS (Anton Mego, Slovakia)
- Most Original Color: TRADE SECRET (Keith Keppel, USA)
- Best Scented Variety: PAGAN'S MAIDEN (Anna & David Cadd, USA)
- Best Deep Blue Variety: FIORE DI MAGGIO (Mauro Bertuzzi, Italy)
- Best Violet Variety: VIOLA DI NUOVA (Stefano Gigli, Italy)
- Best Early Variety: CALL WAITING (Hal Stahly, USA)
- Best Late Variety *for 2005*: KITTY KAY (Keith Keppel, USA)

Australian Dykes Medal

Word has arrived from Australia with the results of the Dykes Medal trials for 2005. The winner of the Dykes Medal is the Louisiana Iris GUNNER (John Taylor). The I.S.A. Medal (awarded to Best Bearded when a Beardless wins the Dykes, and to the Best Beardless when a Bearded wins the Dykes) went to SECOND OPTION (Graeme Grosvenor). We extend our congratulations to both hybridizers, as well as our Get Well wishes to Graeme Grosvenor, who has been experiencing some health problems. 🌹

Section Happenings

by Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant

The first version of my July column was prepared by deadline, but the *Bulletin* editor agreed it would be more topical to update it after the Section meetings at the AIS Convention in Portland, OR. Thanks to our editor for allowing time for this update.

The meeting of the Section presidents on May 23, 2006 was attended by representatives of HIPS, MIS, SIGNA, SJI, SSI, SLI, SPCNI and RIS. Missing in action were the Dwarf Iris Society, the Spuria Iris Society and the Aril Society International. Unanimous conceptual support (discussed at later individual Section board and membership meetings) of those attending was expressed for:

- a. Inclusion of Sections and Co-operating Societies in the on-line E-Join membership provision proposed for the AIS website
- b. Usage of PayPal as an option to process payment for membership dues
- c. Consistent, standard but separate line-item listing for Overseas memberships to either charge or absorb (individual Section decision) extra postage for Section bulletins. It was agreed that Section Presidents need to communicate their positions on these topics directly to John Jones, AIS Electronic Services & Website Chairman. The AIS *Bulletin* editor was in attendance and so was made aware of the Sections' position on Overseas membership dues listings in the *Bulletin*.

Debra Cole, President of SPCNI, was elected as Section Representative on the AIS Nominating Committee.

Future Section Conventions were reported as follows:

Society for Louisiana Irises, April 13-15, 2007, Lafayette, LA
 Median Iris Society, "Prairie Gold", May 6-7, 2007, Lincoln, NE
 Society for Japanese Irises, June 2008, Kalamazoo, MI
 Siberian/Species, June 2009, Twin Cities Area, MN

Section News of Interest


“Reigning Iris 2006” was misspelled! Although most of us did a good job of ducking the Oregon liquid sunshine, not all were as lucky, as it did rain somewhere almost every day of the AIS Convention. “Another Shower of Iris” was the title of the 2006 Siberian/Species Convention that followed and it continued the rainy good times. Conditions were okay for the Abrego garden tour but it rained hard and long at the Lorena Reid garden near Springfield, OR. If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck. And it was! Wood ducks visited the slough beyond the Siberian and Species plantings.

AIS Sections are listed in the *AIS Bulletin* in the order in which they were chartered. The Median Iris Society became the first official Section of AIS over 50 years ago and will celebrate that fact next year in its 52nd year. The Society for Siberian Irises and Spuria Iris Society also will soon celebrate their 50th year as Sections. Officers and Board Members of these Sections would welcome ideas, pictures, and/or memorabilia from their membership on how to properly honor their past.

The Aril Society International is playing catch-up with their publications. I received their 2005 *Yearbook* in April 2006. ASI is truly international with their President Patricia Toolan located in Australia and their *Yearbook* editor Thomas Fietz in Germany. The *Yearbook* was published in the USA to hold down mailing costs. Their annual seed exchange will be handled by Lars Hopfner of Denmark, a past President of Dansk Irisog Liljeklub (The Danish Iris and Lily Society).

The *Medianite* editor Rita Gormley published “pets and irises” pictures in the Spring 2006 issue of the Median Iris Society bulletin. Many people sent in these pictures of their babies. It is hoped that someone will publish a picture of “Cat” as seen socializing with AIS members at Cooley’s during the 2006 Convention.

It was a pleasure meeting DIS *Newsletter* editor Kelly Norris at the AIS Convention, where he was recognized as first runner-up for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Youth Award. New blood for an old organization is always welcome. He is presenting a polished issue of the *Newsletter* three times per year while maintaining a commercial garden and attending Iowa State University.

The 2006 SPCNI Trek preceded the AIS Convention in Portland, and the “trekkers” reported a good time viewing *I. gormanii* and the “yellow” and “pink” forms of *I. tenax* in their type locales, around Hagg Lake west of Portland. And it didn’t rain. 

Youth Views

by Cheryl Deaton, California

New Youth General Fund

Having recently returned from the AIS National Convention in Portland, I have so much information to share that I'm not sure I'll have the space for it. The best news is that the AIS Board of Directors has established a dedicated Youth General Fund. The other two funds for youth, the Clarke Cosgrove Fund and the Classroom Iris Fund, can only be used for those specific activities, and each fund has sufficient money to continue for years with no further donations. This new fund will allow for so many opportunities in the youth division, such as sponsorship of special projects. I wish to thank Jim Morris and Judy Keisling for their generous donations to begin this fund, and to the Geek Committee who auctioned off 2 youth T-shirts and donated the proceeds to the new youth fund. If you would care to make a donation, just specify that it is for the Youth General Fund.

Clarke Cosgrove Awards

One of the highlights of the Convention, for me, is the announcement of the winners in the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement and the Ackerman Essay Contest at the Awards Banquet on Saturday night. Let me tell you a little something about each of them.

The winner of the CCMAYA is Joshua Winzer of Mounds, OK in Region 22. He is an active member of the Tulsa Area Iris Society. Joshua used to live in Region 18 and was an active member of the Augusta Iris Society, even serving as Treasurer at the age of 14. He received nominations from members in both regions, and has received many awards in both regions. Currently, he is an assistant manager of a fast food restaurant, earning money for college, and due to his responsibilities at work was unable to attend this year's convention. He is an AIS judge, and in his spare time he likes to judge shows of neighboring iris societies in addition to caring for his own garden and hybridizing. He admires Paul Black and hopes to meet him and visit

Mid-America Gardens sometime in the future.

The first runner-up is Kelly D. Norris, of Bedford, Iowa in Region 21. Kelly is attending Iowa State University, majoring in Horticulture. He is the youngest person to be certified as a Master Gardener in Iowa. Kelly is the Editor of the Dwarf Iris Society Newsletter, a member of the AIS Scientific Committee and a student judge. He has also done some hybridizing. Kelly attended the AIS Convention in Portland, his first Convention, and he was very excited about seeing the gardens and meeting a lot of people. Kelly and his family operate Rainbow Iris Farm. In fact, Kelly was instrumental in convincing his family to purchase the business, and he is the manager. Kelly was presented with his award at the AIS Board of Director's meeting on Tuesday.

The second runner-up is Rachel Hindle, of Hutchinson, Kansas in Region 18. You might recognize her name, as Rachel has been the winner of the AIS Coloring Contest four times. Her creativity is well known, and I'm told she excels in the artistic division of the shows that she enters. Rachel is a member of the Hutchinson Iris Club and has served as the club's Youth Advisor for the past three years. She is currently a student judge and grows about 75 varieties of iris in her garden, her favorites being the SDBs and MTBs.


The winners of the Ackerman Essay Contest, sponsored by the AIS Foundation, are Rachael Thormann of Region 2 in the 12 years and under category, and Grace Farley of Region 21 in the 13 years and up category. Congratulations to all the winners. As you can see, we are extremely lucky in having such accomplished and special members in the American Iris Society. The winning essays will be published in the October issue of The Bulletin.

Youth T-Shirt

Recently we held a T-shirt design contest for the AIS Youth members. The winning design was by Nicole Pedersen of the Lincoln Area Iris Society. She won a t-shirt and the most recent Dyke's Medal Winner, Splashacata, for her design. You can see the design on the AIS youth website. T-shirts are available for \$15 each plus \$2 shipping and handling, in sizes Youth Large, and Adult Small, Medium, Large, XL and XXL. Some sizes are limited. All profits will go into the new Youth General Fund to help defray the cost of various youth activities. Contact me at region15kids@hotmail.com to order or for more information.

Coloring Contest

This year's coloring contest picture was found by Nancy Price who operates the Youth website. Deadline for entries is October 1st, 2006. The picture will be available on the youth website, www.youth-iris.com, and also in the summer issue of the youth newsletter, *The Iris Fan*, which is due out in June, right after the Convention. Make sure you put your name and birthdate on the back of your entry so it can be placed in the correct age division.


Here's hoping you had a wonderful bloom season. Share those extra rhizomes with a young person and get them interested in starting their own garden. Who knows? Someday I just might be presenting them with an award at the National Convention. 

AIS Insurance

by Michelle Snyder, Insurance Chair

For those of you who do not already know, our Liability Insurance is now with a new insurance company. If Certificates of Insurance are needed, I have made it much easier to obtain the needed documents.

To obtain Certificates of Insurance go to www.irises.org/insurance.htm and click on the text Request for Certificates of Insurance. Download the form, complete it as necessary, and fax it to the number shown.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either (818) 352-7018, or my email address of sammygiz@aol.com. 

www.theirisfarm.com

AIS Calendar 2006

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2007: April 30 – May 5

Oklahoma City, OK

Chair:

F. W. McVicker

Route 3 – Box 10-K; Kingfisher,
OK 73750; (405) 375-3115

<fwm3115@peoplepc.com>

Headquarters:

Oklahoma City Marriott
3233 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 842-6633

2008: April 14-19

Austin, TX

Chairs:

Jim Landers

710 North 11th; Temple, TX
76501-3016; (254) 773-5017

<jimlanders43@hotmail.com>

Headquarters:

Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark
4140 Governor's Row
Austin, TX 78744
(512) 383-2621

2009: May 11-16

Kansas City, MO

Chair:

Debora Hughes

3395 Utah Road; Wellsville,
KS 66092; (785) 883-4737

<dhughes936@grapevine.net>

Headquarters:

Doubletree Hotel Overland Park
10100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 451-6100

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2006: November 3-5

Kansas City, MO

Chair:

Judy Keisling

12119 A Highway; Liberty, MO
64068; (816) 792-1848

<keisling@swbell.net>

Headquarters:

Clarion Kansas City Airport Hotel
11832 NW Plaza Circle
Kansas City, MO 64153
(816) 464-2345

2007: Oct 31 – Nov 2

Raleigh-Durham, NC

Chair:

Susan Grigg

105 Trotters Ridge Road; Raleigh,
NC 27614; (919) 870-8345

<smgrigg@bellsouth.net>

Headquarters:

Hilton Raleigh-Durham
4810 Page Road
RTP, NC 27709
(919) 941-6000


2008: Oct 31 – Nov 2nd

Tulsa, OK

Chair:

Paul W. Gossett

129 East 33rd Place; Tulsa, OK
74105-2542; (918) 742-1204

<pwgossett@juno.com> 

National Convention Awards, 2006

compiled by Judy Nunn, Convention Registrar

President's Cup (Best Iris from a Hybridizer in Region 13)

HIGH CHAPARRAL – 62 votes

FLORENTINE SILK – 53

WILD ANGEL – 40

VIENNA WALTZ – 24

GYPSY LORD – 22

Franklin Cook Cup (Best Iris from a Hybridizer Not in Region 13)

SAILOR'S DREAM – 53

FABULOUS ONE – 30

BLAZING BEACON – 20

OSAY CANUC – 20

AMARILLO FRILLS – 18

15 Favorite Irises at National Convention, 2006

(as voted by those who attended the convention)

- 1 FLORENTINE SILK (Keppel) – 126 votes
- 2 SAILOR'S DREAM (MTB, Fisher) – 115
- 3 HIGH CHAPARRAL (Schreiner) – 110
- OREO (Keppel) – 110
- 5 WILD ANGEL (Johnson) – 96
- 6 SEA POWER (Keppel) – 87
- 7 DANGEROUS MOOD (Schreiner) – 85
- OSAY CANUC (Burseen) – 85
- 9 RASPBERRY SLURP (Versicolor, Butler) – 83
- 10 BLAZING BEACON (Tasco) – 73
- 11 GYPSY LORD (Keppel) – 70
- SECRET RITES (Keppel) – 70
- 13 CRACKLING CALDERA (Aitken) – 68
- VIENNA WALTZ (Keppel) – 68
- 15 FABULEUX (Cayeux) – 63
- FABULOUS ONE (R. Nicodemus) – 63 

The AIS 2006 Photo Contest

Share and present your most stunning, breathtaking pictures of irises, gardens, and people involved with irises. This contest is open to everyone and is free to enter. The winning photo of each category will be published in the *AIS Bulletin* and on the AIS web site. **The winner of each category will receive a 2006 introduction from a Region 13 hybridizer.** The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runners-up in each category will receive a 2004-2005 introduction.

How to Enter:

Simply fill out the entry form and send it with your photos to AIS at the address below.

You may submit up to five photos in this year's contest. The deadline for submissions to the 2006 Photo Contest is **August 31, 2006**. Entries will be selected and judged in six (6) categories:

1. Irises used in landscaping.
2. Irises in the garden.
3. Irises with a person or people.
4. Close up of an iris or irises.
5. Photos of events or shows (including arrangements).
6. Youth, any photo with irises.

Please do not send any photo smaller than 4 x 6 inches, nor larger than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 (half page). If you are using a digital camera, it is suggested that you take your photos in 360dpi or higher resolution, and we ask that you print and submit your photos on photo paper. Please avoid writing or labeling on the back of the photo, unless to identify a variety or person.

A panel of three judges will judge photos received and their decisions will be final. At the discretion of the judges, photos not selected in the current contest may be held for further consideration in future contests. Please provide AIS with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photos returned. Photos will otherwise not be returned and may be destroyed if not selected.

Where to send your photos and entry:

The American Iris Society Photo Contest, c/o Kitty Loberg, 1900 Mountain View Lane, Redwood Valley, CA 95470. Send inquiries to <loberg@adelphia.net>.

Entry Form:

Photo caption name(s) and names of persons in photos, if any
(for reference purposes):

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

#5 _____

Youth: If this is a **youth** entry, please tell us your age: _____

I am the person who took the photographs(s) enclosed, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party. By entering the photo contest I am hereby authorizing The American Iris Society to use winning photographs in publications, in brochures, on the Internet, and for other promotional uses.

Signature _____

Name _____


Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____


Phone _____

(Receipt of photos will be acknowledged by email. Please provide a SASE if you want a receipt by mail.) 

Request for Bearded Iris

AIS Convention: Lone Star State 2008

The Iris Society of Austin will host the American Iris Society Convention in the year 2008. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of bearded irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises.

1. Up to four rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from September 1 through October 30, 2006.
3. Ship by United States Postal Service or by UPS, to:
Nelda Moore
607 Westlake Dr
Austin, TX 78746
4. The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address
 - b. Name or seedling number of the variety
 - c. Type of iris (TB, BB, IB, AB, SDB, etc.)
 - d. Height, color, and bloom season (EML)
 - e. Year of introduction (if introduced)
5. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairperson no later than December 1, 2007.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2008 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to the garden owner and the rest to the Iris Society of Austin plant sale. All official guest plants will be returned freight paid, except for foreign addresses.
7. The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.
8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairperson will be listed in the Convention Booklet.
9. E-mail for Carol Canfield (Guest Iris Chairperson):
 carolcc5@yahoo.com 

Request for Guest Beardless Irises

AIS Convention, Overland Park, KS 2009

The Greater Kansas City Iris Society will host the American Iris Society Convention in May 2009. Hybridizers of beardless varieties are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted guest irises will appear in the convention booklet.

Up to four rhizomes of each variety will be accepted from September 15 through October 15, 2006. Ship plants to:


Jerry Hoke
9015 Carter Circle
Overland Park, KS 66223

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:

- Hybridizer's name and address
- Name or seedling number of the variety
- Type of iris (Sib, Spu, LA, etc)
- Height, color, distinguishing features and bloom season (EML)
- Year of introduction if applicable.

If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman by December 1, 2008.

A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2009, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to garden owners and the rest to the Greater Kansas City Iris Society for distribution to Region 18 Clubs. Returns will be sent freight paid except for foreign addresses.

The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. 

2009 Siberian/Species Convention

Request for Iris • Twin Cities Area - June 2009

Dates for receiving guest iris:

- Beginning Spring of 2006 with the latest possible receipt date the Fall of 2007.
- The ideal situation is to give beardless iris a full three years of growth.
- We will note receipt dates in the Convention catalog.
- We will accept either Spring or Fall shipment.

Spring Shipments – until May 15: Spring 2006, Spring 2007

Fall Shipments – until September 15: Fall 2006, Fall 2007

Guest Iris registrar:

Barbara Sautner; 2100 W. 106th St.; Bloomington, MN 44431-3418
<bjstaxservice@aol.com>; (952)884-8254

Photographs:

We are requesting the hybridizer send along a 35mm color slide or e-mail a digital photo in .jpg format to the Guest Iris Registrar. These should be clearly marked with the name or seedling number of the iris.

Guidelines:

Minimum of three, up to five divisions of each variety may be shipped. More allows us to display a variety in a number of garden situations.

The name or seedling number of the variety must be clearly marked on each division. The following information for each plant must be supplied on a packing list:

Hybridizer's name


Name or seedling number

Category/type

Height, color, description, bloom season

(E,M,L applicable to the Siberian iris season)

Year of introduction (if applicable)

Foreign submissions must include phytosanitary certification. 

A Return to Paradise

by Robert Strohman, Kentucky

When I first learned the 2006 AIS Convention would be held in that epicenter of successful gardening, Portland, Oregon, the name of a 1952 Hollywood film came to mind. "Return to Paradise" was set on a tropical South Pacific island and had nothing whatever to do with iris or Oregon, but its title is apt for a revisit to America's gardening paradise.

Of course it's paradise. Think of all those who have uprooted their plants, their families, and themselves and moved to Oregon where almost all plants grow well. And more moves westward are planned (one hears rumors).

I had been there before – in 1994 for an AIS convention and in '96 and '04 for median iris tours – and I looked forward to going back. In preparation for my return to paradise, I packed a bottle of sunscreen labeled SPF-30, little realizing it would never be needed. I won't say more. I won't use the "R" word, leaving that to others whose comments on specific gardens will appear in the October *Bulletin*. [Ed.: ...and to Pat Otterness!]

I will, however, use its homonym which was part of the convention's name, "Reigning Iris," and its logo where an appropriate umbrella floated over a single iris flower.

Nearly a thousand iris fans made their way to Portland, and the week began. The sectional meetings offered many delights.

Those at the Louisiana Irises meeting saw slides of new creations by Australian hybridizers Penny Davis and Peter Jackson, all of them breathtaking. The vivid, saturated colors of Jackson's varieties were especially striking.

At the SIGNA meeting, the latest decisions by horticultural taxonomists were announced: The vesper iris, formerly *Pardanthopsis dichotoma*, is once again *Iris dichotoma*. And even the blackberry lily, *Bellamcanda chinensis*, is now said to be an iris and renamed *Iris domestica*.

The Median Iris Society's meeting was a tribute to Bennett Jones. Indeed, the entire convention was dedicated to Bennett, and a fitting

tribute was included in the convention booklet. During the MIS program, Bennett was accorded the honor of receiving the first-ever Bennett C. Jones Award for outstanding median iris hybridizing. During the garden tours that followed, Bennett was present at Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, visiting with his many iris friends.


Once the garden visits began, one of the high points for me was visiting the vast collection of historic varieties maintained by Bruce Filardi at Aitken's, all thriving and planted alphabetically – a living museum of iris history.

As they are every year, TBs were in the majority, and their myriad variety was amazing. But memorable, too, were the Siberians, inter-species, and Pacific Coast Natives, all grown better than I've ever seen them before.

At Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm of Chad Harris and Dale Grams, the non-guest personal collection of old and new Siberians was truly impressive, and a huge mass planting of *I. douglasiana* bloomed in profusion.

The final-night Awards Banquet brought deserved applause for those receiving AIS awards, followed by the conventioners' selections: the President's Cup for Best In-Region to HIGH CHAPARRAL (Schreiner '06), and the Cook Cup for Best Out-of-Region to Ken Fisher's MTB SAILOR'S DREAM ('04). As the evening wore down, it was time for exchanging good-byes and addresses with old and new friends.

Some headed home, looking forward to next year's Oklahoma City gathering, but others extended their Oregon experience an extra day for "Another Shower of Iris," an aptly-named two-garden tour featuring Siberians, species, and inter-species crosses. The two hundred who visited Ellen & Tom Abrego's Chehalem Gardens enjoyed the guest irises there, as well as the Abregos' personal beardless collection and their memorable roofless wine-bottle room. Lorena Reid's garden was awash (pun intended) with iris guests and the ongoing results of Lorena's work with many, many inter-species hybrids. Conventioneers chose Dean Cole's MY FIRST KISS ('05) as best Siberian and Dana Borglum's ALLY OOPS ('02) as best inter-species. Best seedlings were Siberian 99K1B30 by Bob Hollingworth and versicolor-laevigata seedling 00VL-24-2G by Lorena Reid. The evening's banquet was capped by Lorena's slide show résumé of her inter-species work.

En route homeward, whether on the road or aloft, everyone looked back on a week of fun, fellowship, and floral beauty during which all those irises reigned and reigned and reigned. Yes they did! 

Raining Iris:

A Trip Down the Rabbit Hole

by Pat Otterness, Virginia

Not unexpectedly, my projected exercise regime never made it off the couch. My new wardrobe somehow failed to *materialize*. Even my toy selection underwent revision as I tried to pare down the weight and shape of my carry-on luggage. After a year of paranoid planning and frantic preparation, I settled at last into a kind of catatonic Zen state, and shuffled my shaggy self aboard a plane bound for Portland.

Somehow, I found myself sitting outside the Portland airport, luggage in hand, waiting for the hotel shuttle. Tired and unsure of how to proceed, I slumped there, watching the procession of shuttles pass, each bound for a different hotel. I expected to feel alone at this convention. Usually when I'm alone, it's just me and the cat, on a hillside full of tall bearded iris. Social interaction is limited. But here I was, wading into a sea of strangers, with no idea what to say, how to act, or what would be expected of me. But then ... are we ever, *really* alone? We share so much commonality ... every one of us ... and never more so than when congregating with others who share a passion for ... an addiction to ... something as beautiful as the iris. I decided the best thing I could do ... *Go with what you know!* ... was to treat everyone pretty much the same way I treat my cat.

When at last I entered the hotel lobby, I was recognized on sight, and given a big hug, by ... *the energizer bunny*? On closer inspection, my hugger proved to be **Tall Talk** editor and email friend, Judy Nunn, who was also Convention Registrar. *Talk about passing GO and collecting two hundred dollars!* Quick as a wink, with absolutely no effort on my part, Judy had me registered, assigned to the "blue 1" bus, and gifted with a beautiful iris tee shirt she had bought for me online.

Judy began introducing me to everyone in sight ... people who said things like "*I've always wanted to meet you*", and "*I love your articles*". I was as dumbstruck as if my cat had suddenly begun to quote Shakespeare. Then this gorgeous guy came up and hugged me, and turned out to be Bruce Filardi, my **Bulletin** editor and email buddy. *Everyone* seemed glad to see me. *Go figure!* I was so tired, so spacey, my encounters with these nice people had the surreal quality of a pleasant dream. I managed to secure my hotel key, which looked suspiciously like

a credit card, then dragged my suitcase through a labyrinth ... miles and miles of hallways ... up an elevator ... down more hallways, to my room. Luckily, the “key” came with instructions. “*Open, sesame*”, I said, and entered the room.

You’d think the surprises would be over with at this point. *But no!* At the foot of my bed was a crocheted afghan, one I’d started about twenty years ago and never finished. Last winter, I’d sent the partially completed project and the remaining yarn to Judy Nunn, since I knew she liked to make afghans. Well, darned if she hadn’t finished making it, and here it was, with a suggestion that we auction it off at the Geek Dinner.

Glancing around, I saw that the hotel had installed a microwave and refrigerator as I had requested. Peeking inside the fridge, I was surprised to see ... *food!* Half a dozen hard-boiled eggs, sticks of low-fat mozzarella string cheese, and cans of V-8 juice were waiting for me. On a nearby table was a basket of Clif bars (a favorite indulgence) and more cans of V-8 juice. The energizer bunny at work! She had made sure there would be something I could eat, waiting for me. Just one more proof that *the squeaky wheel gets the oil!*

The first morning, my alarm clock failed to chirp. It’s one of those new clocks that offer nature sounds instead of harsh buzzers, and I always wake to the first chirp of birdsong. But this day, no chirping. Luckily, I had no plan for the morning except, perhaps, a trip to the grocery store for emergency supplies. I opened the drapes and looked out on ... rain. Rats! My first day, and here it was, raining. What rotten luck!

I breakfasted on boiled egg and V-8 juice, then dressed and stepped onto the balcony for a view of the river. My balcony had a view over the tennis courts, where sprinklers, unmindful of the rain, were busily watering the grass. I exchanged hellos and commiserations on the weather with a man on a neighboring balcony, who proved to be Gary Slagle, another convention attendee. We exchanged information about ourselves and our iris breeding before going our separate ways.

A brief foray down to the hotel lobby brought me back into contact with yesterday’s *alternate reality*, the one where strangers recognized me, admitted to having read my articles, and even thought they were funny. At home, I can’t even get *my own children* to read my articles. This unexpected acclaim was causing my head to swell ... a real adrenaline rush! I don’t smoke, drink, or drug, but I can get an adrenaline high from being around people. Trust me, a little bit of Pat Otterness goes a long way when I get looped on love of my fellow man. I beat a hasty retreat!

Bruce Filardi had arranged for me to visit his garden that afternoon, and nature smiled on us. The rain stopped, the sun came out, and the afternoon was beautiful, as was his garden. I pitter-pattered between

rows, admiring Bruce's seedlings, and examining varieties he had purchased from other breeders. Gradually, guests drifted in to look at Bruce's garden, and at Terry Aitken's as well ... *or was it the other way around?* After I was introduced to George and Carla Lankow, I wandered over to see the guest irises in the Aitkens' garden. What a thrill to see my own LAUGHINGSTOCK, ALMOST AUTUMN, ON ICE, DESERT UMBER, and MOON OVER MADNESS guesting in my first, national convention garden. Remember, this was my very first experience of an iris garden other than my own. I was taking lots of pictures ... of the plants, of the landscape, and of the people drifting among the rows of guest irises. An attractive man with ... believe it or not ... a handlebar mustache ... drifted over to where I was sitting with Bruce and the Lankows and asked, *"Are there any famous iris breeders here?"*

Without hesitation, I raised my hand. *"I guess that would be me"*, I quipped.

"Hi! I'm Phil", he offered.

"Phil who?" said I, totally in the dark.

"Phil Williams", he grinned, shaking my hand.

Stunned, astounded, and amazed, I beamed at him! I've been corresponding with Phil via email for years. I've had long, long chats with him on the phone. He even carries my iris varieties in his catalog. I knew he was nice. I knew he was funny. I had no idea he was also *cute!*

He had brought his daughter Bridget with him, and she was as delightful as her father. I could have talked to them forever. But before I knew it, I was being embraced by Rick Tasco ... meeting Roger Duncan and Rick for the first time ... being told *"I've always wanted to meet you!"* This day just kept getting better and better.

That evening, my mind remained adrift in the euphoria of the day, and I had difficulty falling asleep. My mind wanted to play and replay the events of the day ... to re-examine every delightful moment ... rudely ignoring the requests for sleep made by my tired body. If I had had only this one day in Portland, it would have been enough! But there was so much more.

Imagine my dismay, when the chirping of my alarm opened my eyes to yet another rainy day. What happened to yesterday's sun? I wondered ... *and continued to wonder* ... each and every day for the remainder of my stay in Portland. But off I went to tour the Portland Gardens. The Chinese Garden was my favorite ... and not just because it offered shelter from the rain. There was a wonderful volunteer tour guide, Lucinda Pierpoint, who told our soggy little group a bit about the history of the garden, and about its symbolism.

From there, we were driven to a hot lunch at the Portland Zoo. Our bus driver, Rolf Achtel, told jokes and brightened the cloudy day with humorous stories and comments about the city as he drove. After a delicious lunch, we climbed back aboard the bus, and moved on to the Japanese Garden. Heavy rain, misunderstandings about tour guides, and steep, slippery steps and slopes spoiled my enjoyment of this lovely place. Adjoining it was the Rose Garden, where I and the other members of my group wandered about, enjoying the landscaping, the huge rhododendrons, and the abundant rose varieties as well as we could in the continuing rain. The warm, dry bus, and the humorous dialogue of the bus driver were welcome as we headed, at last, back to the hotel.

I was dismayed to learn that Keith Keppel's garden was not among those listed on the tour itinerary. Eventually, my whining and moping drove Judy Nunn to promise me a personal tour, in her personal car, to meet Keith and to see his garden. *Yes!* We set off in Judy's car on Wednesday morning, joined by Ramona Howard and Ruth Barker, and led a procession of cars to Salem. A restroom stop was made at Judy Nunn's house, where we all got a glimpse of her own personal garden ... and I got a peek at Larry's model train setup ... before driving out to Keppel's for the main event.

I never fully appreciated mud until I visited Keppel's garden. In my own garden, mud is a sort of damp clay that is slippery to walk on, and has to be scraped from ones shoes before going indoors. I saw lots of mud in Oregon - black mud, unlike anything we have in Virginia. Keppel has brought that mud to a new plateau. His mud is the mud one thinks of when wallowing pigs are mentioned. He seems to glory in his mud, as if the deep, dark, oozing mud is part and parcel of who he is. *His disclaimer cites soft rot, so I guess appearances can be deceptive.* However, I liked the mud so much, I brought some home with me. Here's how that happened.

Rather than fight a losing battle to maintain dry paths, Keppel solved the mud problem by handing out plastic grocery bags to all comers as foot coverings. I watched as the various members of my group tied plastic bags over their shoes in order to walk the muddy but gorgeous rows of Keppel seedlings. Proudly, I flaunted brand new mud boots I had bought, just for this excursion. I, alone, of all Keppel's visitors, walked boldly through the wet, sucking black mud without a plastic barrier.

Only when I prepared to re-enter Judy Nunn's car for the ride home did I discover the error of my ways. Then, in order to ride in Judy's car, it became necessary to don a pair of plastic bags over my very muddy boots. *Sigh!* Better yet, we decided to have a hot lunch at Elmer's Restaurant. I was the lucky girl who got to make a fashion statement by wearing those

selfsame plastic bags into the restaurant for lunch, and later, down all the long halls of the Red Lion on the River, back to my room.

The next three days were an orgy of iris-viewing. Each day the 5:45 chirping of my alarm was followed by a low groan emanating from my own sleepy self. *Who in the world came up with this idea of boarding buses at seven a.m.?* I wondered. I was doubly grateful for boiled eggs and V-8 juice close at hand, as I struggled to cross the sleep barrier and get to the bus on time.

I was lucky in my choice of seatmates. The long bus rides were made more enjoyable by interesting discussions I had with Dorothe Schroeter, a visitor from the German-speaking side of Switzerland. In retrospect, I realize that Dorothe was almost the only person at the convention with whom I had the leisure to discuss more than superficial topics. My encounters with other convention attendees seemed like mere tastings of the *smorgasbord* of humanity present in the gardens of Oregon. I would have loved more time with each and every one of them. Maybe it's the writer in me. I want to know what makes a person tick. Why is this one smiling, and that one solemn? What motivates a woman with a newly broken arm to cheerfully continue the iris tours with her arm in a sling, unset? What, for that matter, has motivated a hermit like myself to fly across a continent in order to join a thousand strangers, all shivering in the cold rain day after day?

In all, there were eight gardens on the tours, each one lending a different perspective to what an iris garden could be. The use of landscaping, both large scale and small, was of great interest to me. I found myself counting the paving stones in a raised bed at the Plotner garden. *Wow!* Over 200 pavers supported the long bed I coveted. LAUGHINGSTOCK was blooming in the Plotner garden, and several people took photos of me with this first, best-known intro of mine. I fell in love with untended fields behind the Plotner house, where abandoned iris blooms peeped out above the tall grass. The sight of them made me nostalgic for home.

Railroad ties and paths of shredded wood caught my eye at the Collier garden. It was a good way to keep weeds at bay, and an attractive way to cover the mud that must surely have been beneath it. But what, I wondered, was the downside? Termites? Might something leach from the wood into the soil? I've been gardening long enough to know that whenever one finds a way to keep weeds at bay, there's always a downside. But I really liked the way it looked, and the nice paths the Collier's had made for viewing their guest irises. By some accident, all four of my own guest varieties were mislabeled there, so I yanked up the labels and replaced
(Continued on page 62)

THANK YOU to attendees of the 2006 National Convention here in Portland. Much to my surprise and pleasure, *three* of my guest irises received votes for the President's Cup: BANANA CREAM PIE ('07), SOME ENCHANTED EVENING ('06), and PEWTER AND GOLD ('06 - pictured here, because I was not satisfied with the picture I included in my April ad). BANANA CREAM PIE is scheduled for introduction next year. And watch for some knockouts in 2008: VENETIAN GOWN, a beautiful, ruffled pink amoena; LADY LYNN, a light blue reverse amoena from Fogbound, named in memory of Lynn Finkel; ORANGE SHOCK, a deep bright orange of such saturated color and substance that you might think it's an artificial flower when you first see it; and SUNSHINE SUPERMAN, the brightest, most saturated yellow I've ever seen, complemented by a *red* beard.



PEWTER AND GOLD (Filardi '06)

PEWTER AND GOLD and SOME ENCHANTED EVENING are available now from *Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden*

SANDY LARSON \$40.00



TB (EML) R2003 SANDY LARSON is also being introduced by Lauer's Flowers.
P. O. Box 789 Wilton CA 95693

OUR SASSY

\$15.00



33" Louisiana R2006 Region 15 awarded Best Iris Seedling out of region. 2005 Tuscon Spring Trek

Available from Wayland Rudkin 7469 Circle Parkway Sacramento CA 95823
(916) 392 0838 Peterud3347@sbcglobal.net

Design Corner

by Carolyn Hawkins, Georgia

How Do I Start a Mass Design? Where Do I Begin?

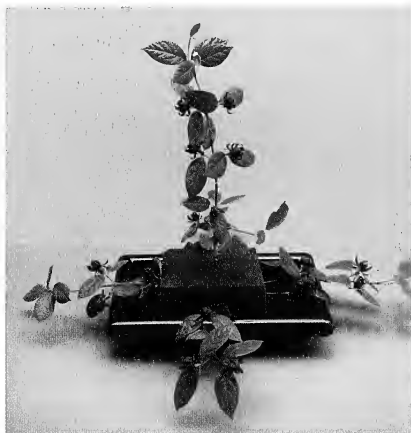
As I have said in earlier articles, a picture is worth a thousand words. Even though these photos are not professional, I think they will guide you through a simple process of starting a mass design.

As stated in the National Garden Club Judges' Handbook, the American Traditional Mass designs are described as those:

- Adapted from European period designs
- Characterized by use of large quantities of plant material
- Formed into a closed silhouette but not crowded (many European designs were very compact)
- Having no crossing lines
- Forms, colors and textures placed to create a center of interest near rim of container

In other words, lots of flowers, not too crowded, evenly placed colors for balance, and usually viewed from all around.

The all around part is where we start. In **Picture 1** you can see the branches of the sweet shrub had been inserted into the Oasis® at north, south, east and west. Then add one in the center of the block. (Be sure to soak your Oasis® in water before using. A dry block will clog the stems of the plants)



Picture 1



Picture 2


In **Picture 2** iris foliage and the iris blooms are added. At this point you might notice that they are evenly placed to maintain balance. The buds of the iris form the top line and carry the eye upward in the design.

Picture 3 adds the small pink flowers. Ask yourself: Is it getting too “busy”? Are the small flowers in scale to the large iris? As you begin to complete the design, turn it to place flowers on the other side.

Picture 4 is the finished product. The white ox-eye daisies create the light spots in the design and continue the white in the falls of the iris. A bright spot of a lighter color, fairly evenly placed, almost always enhances a mass design. The daisies are more in scale to the large iris and the small pink flowers serve as filler and are in scale to the daisies.

Now to critique my own design. This is not the best mass in the world, but it illustrates several points that I have always wanted others to notice. The form of the iris is almost lost in the design with all of the other flowers, which may be a problem of the flat dimension of a photo. However, if you were to view this design in person, I suspect the effect would be different and you could possibly see the iris easily.

Notice the buds at the top that lead your eye upward. This creates a comfort level for the design. The larger forms are placed with gradation as they come to the lower part of the design. Organization of a flower arrangement is a challenge, but the finished product can be rewarding.

Any questions, please contact me at: carolyn9999@comcast.net 



Picture 3



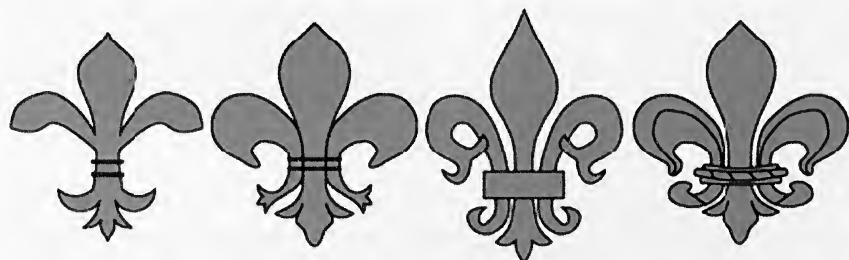
Picture 4

Speculations on the Origin of the Fleur-De-Lis:

From a Maiden's Perspective

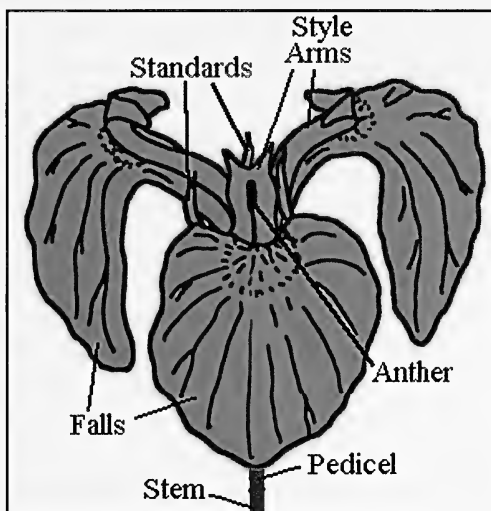
**by Kristen Faith Laing, Virginia (Accredited AIS Garden Judge;
Winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Award, 2005)**

One of the most enduring of the heraldic devices is the fleur-de-lis. Although its origin seems lost in the mists of time, there are a number of legends surrounding it. The most interesting of these is found within France where it is most often associated with Clovis, first Christian King, who according to legends, honored it for indicating a shallow ford across the river during his fight with Alaric, the king of Aquitania, who was defeated at Vouille near Poitiers in 507 AD. Later, the fleur-de-lis was adopted as the national symbol by either King Louis VI or King Louis VII, depending on the source. This would place the adoption of the fleur-de-lis as a French Royal symbol some time between 1108 and 1180 AD. I think that this is important, even more so than the legend of King Clovis. But why would the King of France adopt the fleur-de-lis at that time? According to the legends I have read, it had been around for quite some time. I looked at what was happening in European history at the time and found that the Crusades, initiated by the Pope, occurred between 1096 and 1270. This spans the period of time that King Louis VI or VII adopted the fleur-de-lis. The Pope called for all Christian nations to retake the Holy Land, Kings called the nobles to war, and the nobles brought the young men to fight and die in distant lands. In the process, young couples were split apart and maidens were left behind hoping that their young men would remember them and return unharmed.



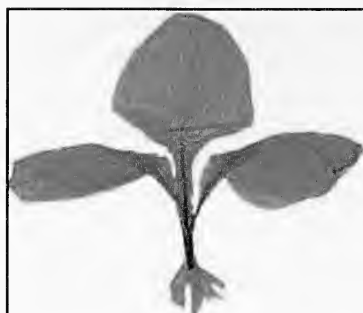
Fleur-De-Lis, From Simple To Complex

After examining the legends and history, the only facts that seem true are that the fleur-de-lis, at least within French culture, is based upon a flower, most likely the *Iris Pseudacorus*, and it was formally adopted as a symbol of France during the period of the Crusades. How is it though that such a strange object that doesn't really resemble this common iris could have been patterned after it? Is it a form of medieval impressionism? Or perhaps a symbol into which over a period of time heraldic artists mutated the shape for art's sake? However, examining the different images of the fleur-de-lis, some simple and some ornate from different sources, reveals some shared details. All have three large petals at the top, three much smaller petals at the bottom, and one, two, or three bands about the lower middle. Some have extra details that could be anthers or additional smaller petals. Traditionally most are colored yellow just like the *Pseudacorus*.



If the French fleur-de-lis was patterned after either a lily or an iris, the bands around the lower middle are very strange since this is not like any plant known in Europe or in the Mediterranean area. There is a probable explanation however. In several of the images I studied, one or more of the bands are spiraled as if rope or twine were wrapped around the stem. If this is a clue, then the original flower that the fleur-de-lis was patterned after was bound by a twisted cord of some kind. Could the device then have been a sheaf or a bundle of petals or leaves bound together? I also noted that that the fleur-de-lis, unlike other floral devices in heraldry, is usually shown two-dimensional, possibly indicating a pressed flower. An investigation of the most probable source, the *Pseudacorus*, reveals the most likely reason.

Like most irises, the *Pseudacorus* is comprised of petals called falls and standards, very pronounced style arms, anthers, and a basal pedicel. The junction between the flower's pedicel and the stem is pretty weak unless the flower has been pollinated and is developing seed. If the *Pseudacorus* was used at one time to actually make a fleur-de-lis, then this would be the most likely point that the flower would be broken

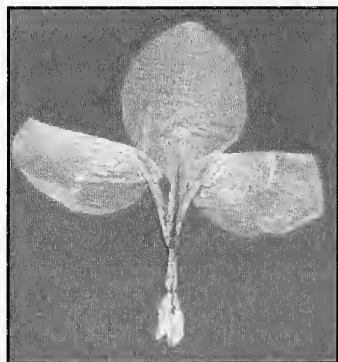


**Pseudacorus Fleur-De-Lis
Bound With Two Hairs
Of A Maiden's Head**

from the stem.

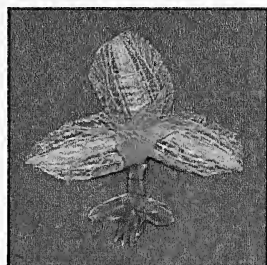
In a series of experiments, I was able to form a number of fleur-de-lis from *Pseudacorus* flowers gathered from my garden simply by using images of the fleur-de-lis to go by. To create the classic fleur-de-lis, the anthers and the rather insignificant standards are removed. This leaves the large petals and style arms attached to the pedicel. Working on the assumption that the fleur-de-lis was a bound and pressed flower and that this

was probably a traditional method of preserving it, the next steps are obvious. The style arms are tightly folded over and brought down to cover the less attractive pedicel. Once the pedicel has been covered by the style arms and these correctly arranged, they are bound into place by one or two threads wrapped around the pedicel and style arms to hold them together while it dries. When folded down and bound, the style arms are longer than the pedicel and if done correctly form the flared smaller petals seen at the base of most fleur-de-lis drawings. Next, the flower is placed on a piece of blotting paper with one fall to the front. The front fall is raised to point to the top of the paper. The two side falls are arranged in a gentle arc, and then the front one third of these two petals are creased so that the arrangement will lay flat when pressed. Another piece of blotting paper is then placed over the flower. Then the flower and papers are placed in a book. In two or three weeks the flower will be dried and formed into a classic fleur-de-lis.



Fleur-de-lis probably were made by poor maidens in the fields since the rich ones had other things to amuse them. In ancient times paper was rare, expensive, or both. However, most countries, including France, have plentiful supplies of another drying medium for pressing flowers. Almost any flower can be pressed between two slabs of almost dried very fine clay. As the clay continues to dry, it pulls all the moisture from the flower and can actually dry a pressed flower more quickly than using blotting paper, as my experiments indicated.

Why would a dried and pressed flower become such a familiar symbol in heraldry? In ancient times, flowers were mentioned a lot in mythology. You only have to look at Roman and Greek mythology to understand the importance that flowers played in ancient cultures. Later, the three falls of the Pseudacorus could have become associated with the Trinity, and the maroon to red signal pattern with the crown of thorns. For a knight setting off on an early crusade, if the Pseudacorus fleur-de-lis was bound with two hairs of a maiden's head, it could have served another purpose. Maidens were and still are really rough on flowers. We make daisy chains, buttercup necklaces, morning-glory garlands, and other things from flowers simply because they are pretty and they are there for the picking. We have even made boats with sails from rose petals and spruce tree resin and pretend birds from lilies. We also make small bouquets tied with a spare thread or string to carry with us, and when there is no thread or string available, a few of the hairs from our heads will do. Pseudacorus are not as fragile as they look when dried and the flower contains some natural glycol, so it preserves really well. If kept in a packet made using two pieces of leather, a fleur-de-lis fashioned by a bored maiden and given to her young man could have been a cherished favor. It would have constantly reminded him, while he was off on crusade, of the maiden he left behind and the need for patience and purity to avoid disease. In this way, the fleur-de-lis made from a Pseudacorus could have come to represent love, patience, and most important, chastity: all good qualities for a knight, squire, or soldier while fighting a holy war. The importance of the traditional lines crossing the lower middle of the fleur-de-lis and in this case representing a maiden's hairs might have been as important as the flower itself, and the knightly qualities the fleur-de-lis symbol represented could have assured it a place in French heraldry.




I have also made fleur-de-lis from other irises and bundles of three petals and leaves of other plants. In fact, with practice I was able to create a fleur-de-lis using petals of two different flowers. The other irises did not work as well since the style arms kept snapping off, and none of the ones using other materials had the traditional floral flair at the bottom of the Pseudacorus fleur-de-lis.

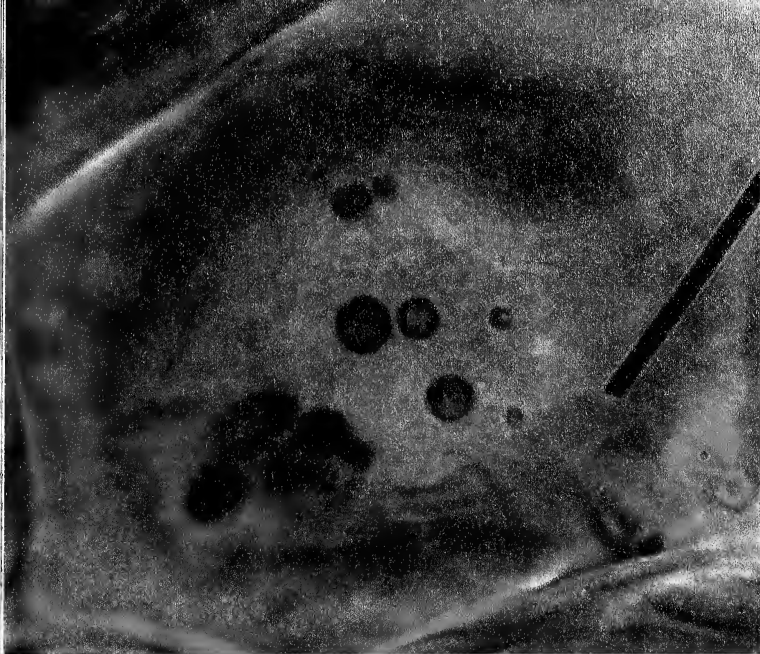
After some experimentation I decided to try three petals from a daylily. By crossing the two side petals across the upright central one, an interesting bundle of petals takes shape. For three petal arrangements, at least two threads or hairs are needed but more often three to properly

bundle the petals together. Since I am probably the first maiden to have made one of these arrangements for some time, I decided that there are no rules to it other than to create a pretty arrangement. For this reason, I trimmed the bottoms of the petals a little bit so they did not look so ragged. This is the result.

I would like to point out that I ran out of Pseudacorus before I figured out this method since the bloom season had finished. The arrangement made from the daylily is very fragile. The earlier arrangements I made from the Pseudacorus might look fragile but they are much more flexible and tough. Pseudacorus petals could also be made into the same type of arrangement but I think that they must usually have been bundled pretty much as I did the first one above.

Experts on heraldry have also cited other more ancient sources as having first created the fleur-de-lis symbol. They state that it was adopted by the French from the Romans and has been used in Egyptian hieroglyphics, as decoration on art in Mesopotamia, and as a holy symbol in ancient India. In Egypt the symbol appears not so much a fleur-de-lis as three Lotus buds clumped together, but not bound, so this source could be wrong. If the Roman symbol was a bundle of lily petals or petals from some other flower, then it might have been adopted by the early French and associated with a simple dried arrangement of a bundle of Pseudacorus petals. After this the fleur-de-lis could have simply represented a bundle of bound Pseudacorus petals arranged in a few different ways. The French word for bundle and sometimes sheaf is *liasse*. Experts on heraldry have wondered where the fleur-de-lis originated and how it got its name. The *Lis* in fleur-de-lis has been associated with regions, rivers and men. But could the original name for the fleur-de-lis simply have been a bundle-flower or fleur-de-liasse? 

Editor's Note: This article is taken from Tak Tent, the Newsletter of the Heraldry Society of Scotland, issue No. 30, October, 2005. It has now been published in heraldry sources in Scotland, Belgium, South Africa, and France. As a result of her work, Ms. Laing has been proposed for her own coat of arms.



(see article, Anthocyanic
Vacuolar Inclusions and
Iris Genetics, page 68)

All photos: Chapman

Fig #1 is a close-up of one cell. We can see the dark purple AVI spots included in the vacuole. The normal color of the anthocyanin in the vacuole is much lighter, although most likely at or near maximum concentration. The AVIs are much darker

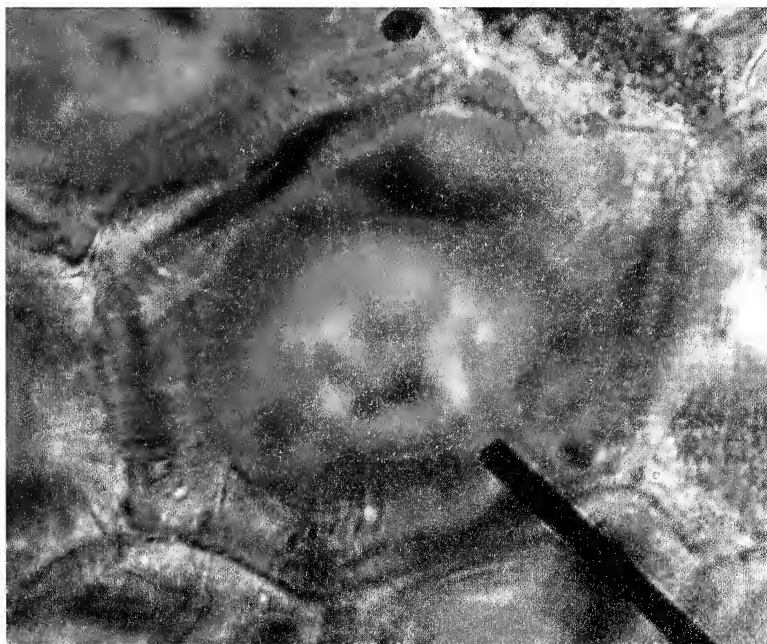


Fig #2 is basically the same as fig #1, but with an attempt to focus on plastids. This does show some details of how the plastids are distributed in the cell wall and around the outside of the vacuole, we get only the plastids, and they show as yellow, although not as clearly in focus as I would like. There is a very limited depth of field with a microscope, so only a very small area is in focus at any one time.

Photo: Schreiner



Florence Award Winners, 2006

(See International News, Page 12)

Above: RECONDITA ARMONIA (Bertuzzi), First place winner

Below: HIGH DRAMA (Black), Second place winner

Photo: P. Black





Australian Award Winners

(See International News, Page 12)

Above: GUNNER (LA-Taylor), Australian Dykes Medal Winner

Below: SECOND OPTION (Grosvenor), I.S.A. Medal



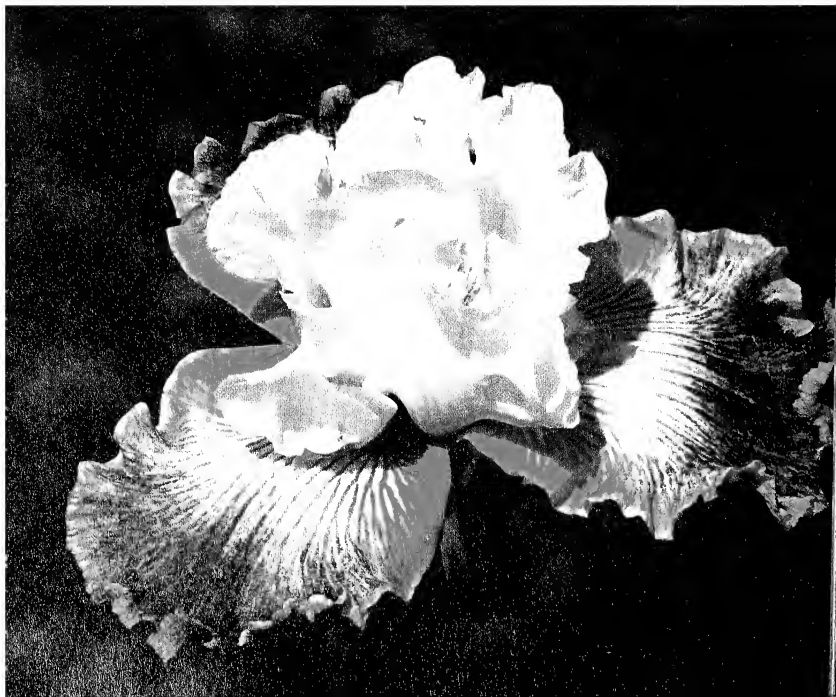


President's Cup Runners-up

(See article, page 20)

Above: FLORENTINE SILK (Keppel)

Below: WILD ANGEL (Johnson)





Cook Cup Runners-up

(See article, page 20)

Above: FABULOUS ONE (R. Nicodemus)

Below: BLAZING BEACON (Tasco)





Rosemary Turner and Judy Nunn modeling the latest in Oregon footwear at the Keppel Garden, on the day before the start of the convention.

The Otterness Files:

Faces, Flowers, and Footwear from the National Convention

(See article, page 28) All photos: Otterness (except where noted)



Above: Pat Otterness having a talk with
her first introduction, LAUGHINGSTOCK

Left: MELANCHOLY MOMENT (Otterson)

Right: DESERT UMBER (Otterness)





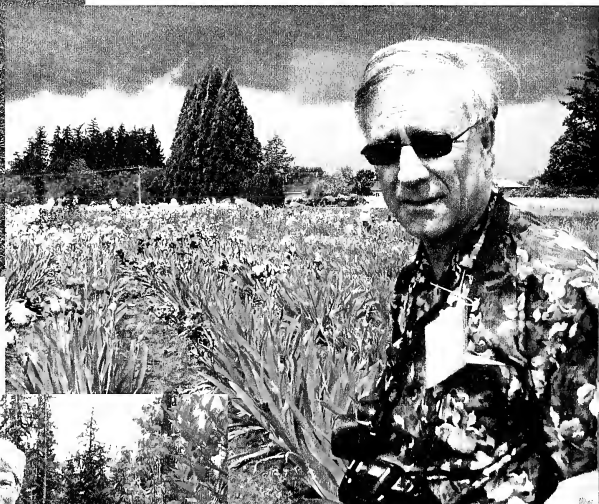
This page, from top to bottom:

Happy Carver with HAPPY AGAIN at Aitken's garden

John Turner at Keppel's garden

G Lankow Smith at at Aitken's garden

Olga Wells and Chris Turner at Chad Harris' garden





This page, from top to bottom:
 Phil Williams with daughter Bridget
 Terry Aitken with mystery chauffeur
 Kathie and Brad Kasperek
 Barry Blyth



This page, clockwise
from above:

Marky Smith, the lady in red

Paul Black in his garden

Roy Epperson, Chad Harris
and others at Chad's garden

Philip Remare at Keppel's

Roger Duncan and Rick Tasco
at the Convention Hotel

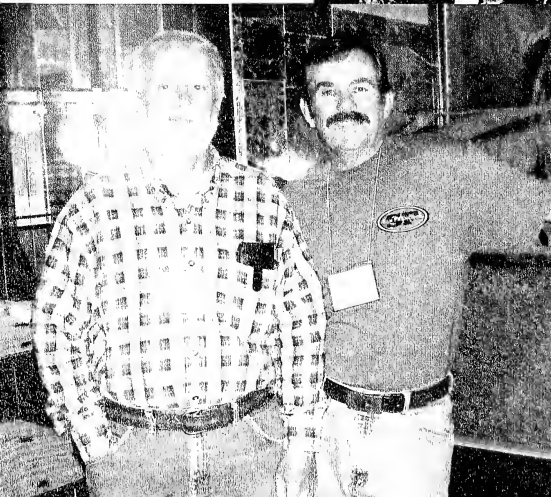




Photo: Gormley

This page, clockwise from top left:

Steve Place and Bennett Jones

Will Plotner in his garden

The hosts at Cooley's

Steve Schreiner



The Whitehall Mansion Project

by **Spencer Farley, Nebraska**

My name is Spencer Farley; I am twelve years old and a member of the Lincoln Iris Society in Lincoln, Nebraska. A special place in Lincoln for me is the Northeast Family Center at Whitehall Mansion.

I've grown up going to the Mansion with my mom for meetings and for special family gatherings. Whitehall Mansion is a great old house about a hundred years old. Two new playgrounds were being donated and I wanted to help.

The installation was moved from the summer to fall during school hours. Since I couldn't help put the playground in, my mom and I tried to think of other ways to help. We came up with the idea of planting hybrid iris along the playground fence to help beautify the area.

Our project started out small, but before we knew it our garden grew to 25 feet by 58 feet and would include plants and flowers that would bloom all season. With a project this big we needed help. I asked my fellow members in the Iris Society if they would be willing to help. I was a little nervous getting up and speaking to the whole group but they were wonderful! Not only did they agree to help, but they voted to donate money to the project!

Members also donated hybrid iris, daylilies and other plants. I called on some local businesses to donate needed chemicals and flowering bulbs. We even got a park bench! I am also a member of 4-H, and the 4-H Teen Council helped shape and put granite stepping stones in the garden.

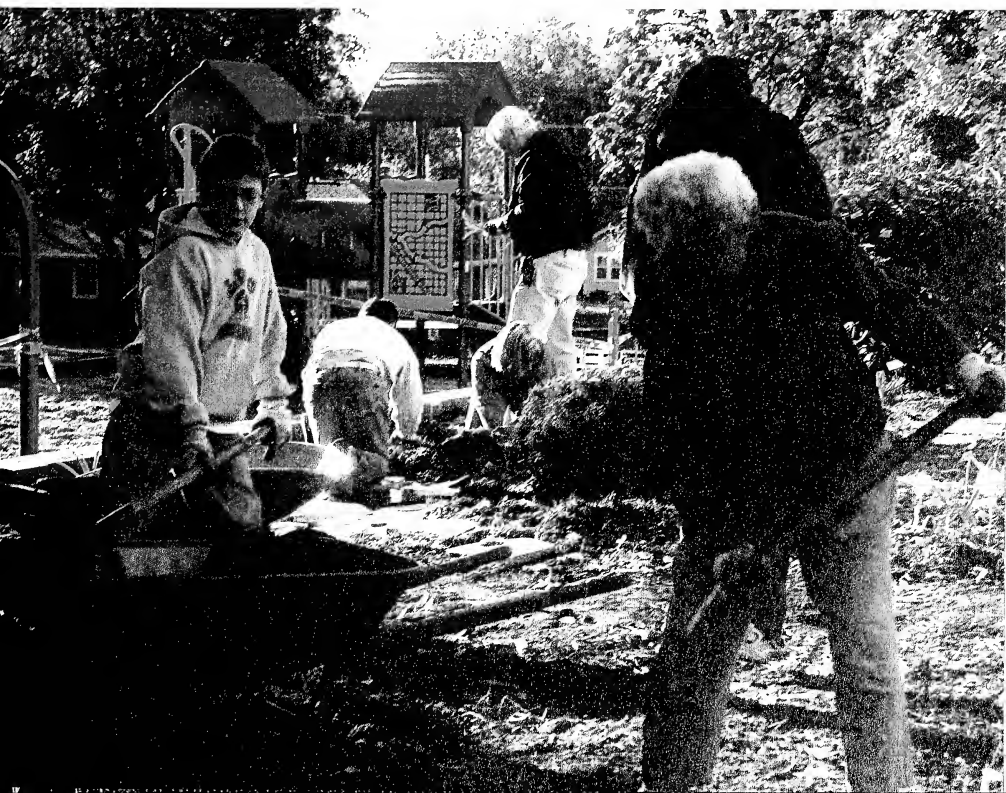
It was really fun seeing all the people come together and work on the project. In all, we had nearly one hundred volunteers. Even my best friend, who has never gardened, helped! The garden has nearly 500 flowering bulbs, around two hundred iris, thirty hybrid daylilies and many other flowers and grasses, all donated. It was fun seeing the garden come together. Giving something back to the community feels good.

[Taken from The Iris Fan, Volume 16, Number 2, Winter 2005]



Above: Spencer Farley at the groundbreaking, with the mayor and others

Below: Spencer and Anne Smith, shoveling mulch



Right: Grace Farley,
planting bulbs

Below: Gary White
and Dean Douglas





Above: Spencer with his aunt

Below: Grace Farley handing Jean Pedersen a stepping stone





The City of Florence

(See article, Page 73)





View along the Arno River towards the Judges' Hotel

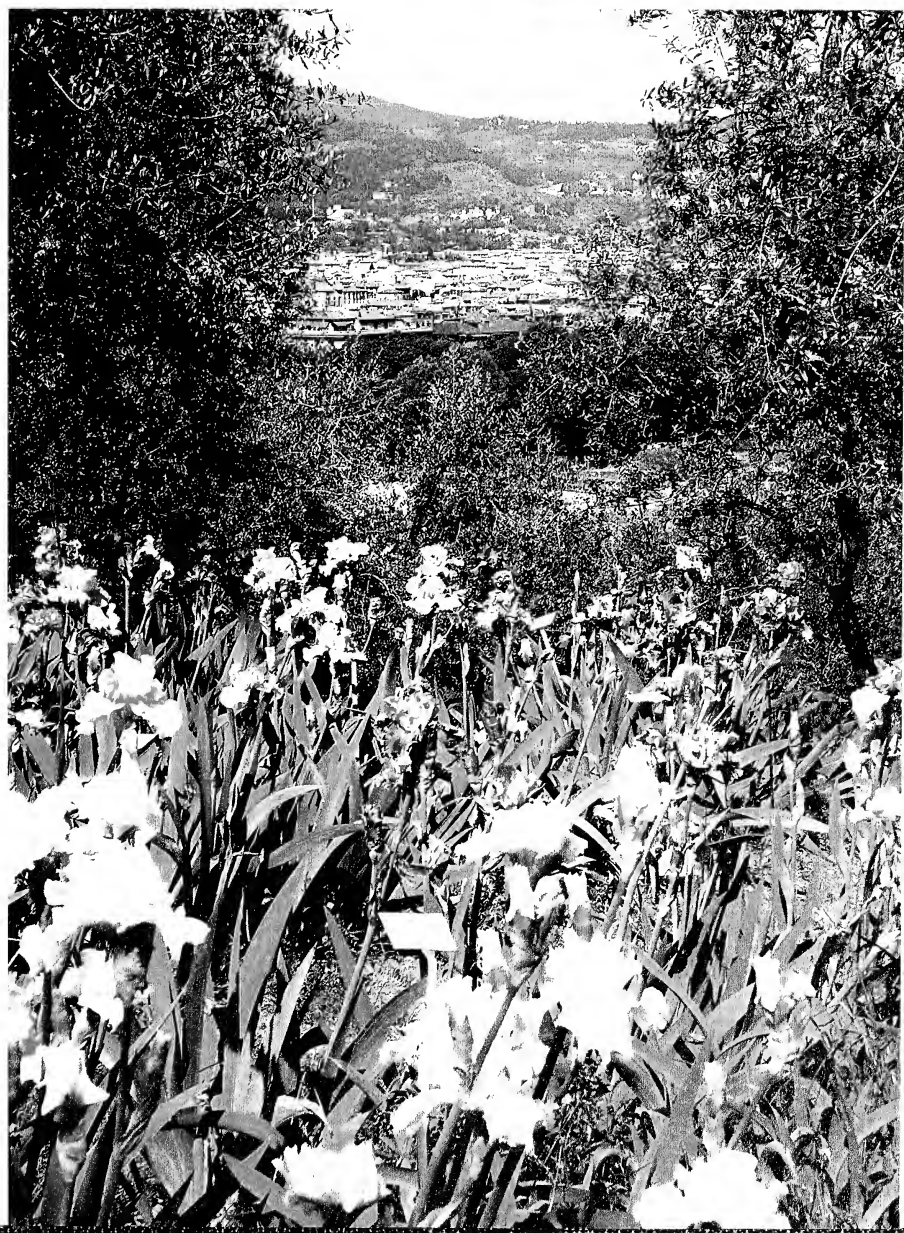


Above and left:
2005 Competition planting

All Florence photos: Foss,
Bauer, Filardi



49° CONCORSO INTERNAZIONALE dell' IRIS







Clockwise from top:

Judges (L-R): Filardi, Barbetti, Russell; Florentine heralds in background



Judge Doralisa Ravenni on left, Izidor Golub speaking at podium

Awards and trophies

Valeria Roselli with prize winners QUEEN'S CIRCLE and REVEL IN RED



L-R: judge Izidor Golub; the Vice-Mayor of Florence; Italian Iris Society President Dr. Maretta Colasante



(Continued from page 32)

them correctly, not yet knowing it was a convention *no-no* to move the tags.

A grouping of old, rusted shovel heads caught my eye in the Ludi garden. What an inventive choice of focal point for a flower bed! A very old tractor, with very new tires, boasting an AIS license plate, was another unexpected visual delight in this interesting garden. Nearby, a row of flowering shrubs was shedding its blooms. White petals wafted everywhere, covering the ground like snowflakes.

Experiencing the hilly landscape shared by the Aitken and Filardi gardens was like finding myself in a giant bowl, filled to the brim with irises old and new. Everything from historic to space-agers was on display ... truly something for every taste. Iris species I had never seen before were growing in profusion along the steep banks in this bowl of loveliness.

Somehow I had gotten it into my head that Chad Harris was the caterer, because he had been in charge of the box lunches for the bus. Imagine my surprise when I stepped out of the bus at Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm and saw that Chad had created, and pretty much single-handedly maintained, one of the most beautifully landscaped gardens I'd ever seen. Iris were only one of the magnificent plantings Chad had on display. The place was huge! And in my opinion, Chad had far-and-away the most scenic location for his porta-potties. (Well, okay! But it was interesting to *me*! I took pictures of porta-potties at almost every tour garden.) Two bright blue porta-potties nestled beside Chad's big white barn, conveniently close to where our bus was parked. Nearby was a picturesque pool, edged with Japanese iris.

It was doubly delightful at Mid-America, to walk through the seedling rows of two prominent breeders, checking along the way to see which ones were Thomas Johnson's, and which were Paul Black's. What a joy to photograph the magnificent landscape that serves as a backdrop to the Mid-America fields. I was able to photograph both Paul Black and Thomas Johnson, though I was unable to secure an opportunity for one-on-one conversation with either of them. For the most part, this was true of my encounters with the breeders and growers I met. It would have been inconsiderate of me to pull aside these much-sought-after folks for the kinds of in-depth chats that I, and maybe even they, had hoped for. I was astounded that many of them seemed to recognize me on sight, and to call to me by name. What a rush *that* was for little backwoods Pat! *Who knew?*

Someone, probably Bruce Filardi, had told me I should keep an eye out for Annand irises, so when I found myself in the elevator with Bob and Irene Annand one evening, I introduced myself and mentioned this recommendation. They invited me to their room to fetch one of their

catalogs. It turned out that Bob and Irene had brought a blooming rhizome of KONA WAVES with them in the car, and they were keeping it on their balcony. It was brought inside for my inspection. What a beauty! I recognized it as one I had photographed in several gardens. I had already designated KONA WAVES as one I intended to purchase for my own garden.

The thing I liked best about Schreiner's was the giant compost heap. Well ... that and the beautifully landscaped gardens, where guest iris intermingled freely with companion plants such as poppies, lupines, allium, and pansies. At Laughingstock, our companion plants are more on the order of milkweed, chickweed, ragweed, and goldenrod. But I have always wanted to see that compost heap... and I wasn't disappointed. *It is huge!* It looks like... and I guess it is... a giant burial mound. I stopped for a moment and paid silent tribute to all the iris seedlings that have lost their lives there. Others must share my sentiment, for the Schreiners have placed a porta-potty adjacent to the site, apparently meant for visitors to this horticultural shrine.

Cooley's was unusual in that it offered benches to sit on. Not that anyone sat, of course, because it was raining and the benches were wet ... but still ... it was a nice touch. There was what looked like an old mill peeping out from the shrubbery ... very picturesque ... and a stone wall with irises lined out along the top. I'd like to try that at home. All I need is ... *a stone wall*. The paths between the rows of well-grown guest irises were wide and dry. I *like* that in a path, especially in Oregon! My own cultivars were taller and more consistently showy here than they had been in most of the other gardens, so of course I spent more time ogling my own things than looking at anyone else's offerings. I did manage to break away from my own self-adulation long enough to witness and photograph John Gilbreath's pleasure at seeing his own first introduction, BLUEBERRY CONFETTI, blooming beautifully among the other guest irises.

Driven indoors at last by the rain, I spent a few happy moments admiring the cut blooms that had been arranged for our viewing. Whereas Schreiner's had put companion plants in their *outdoor* beds, to great advantage, Cooley's had combined companion plants with *cut* iris blooms in artistic *indoor* arrangements. I was intrigued by this use of plants, since I have no experience with flower arrangement. At Laughingstock, the only blooms that come in the house are from stalks blown over by the wind, or broken by marauder cows.


Maybe because there was so much to see, maybe because it rained the entire week, or maybe because I march to a very different drummer, I spent less time examining individual iris cultivars than I had expected. Like a little sponge ... *in more ways than one* ... I soaked up everything I saw, everything I heard, everything I felt. I was as interested in the people

I met as in the plants. Use of landscaping vied for my attention, as did aspects of convention planning and a growing awe at how smoothly the tours progressed. And of course, there was my fascination with the porta-potties. Everyone seemed to flock to them, so it wasn't just me. I may have been the only one who enjoyed including them in my photographs, but *trust me*, they were on everyone's list of important places to visit.

Since time was limited, and rain was constant, I stopped to photograph only a handful of cultivars in each garden. Early on, I decided to limit my photographs to those varieties I might want to add to my own garden. Many of the cultivars that caught my eye were from breeders unknown to me. For instance, in one garden alone, my attention was drawn to Foster's seedling 9701B, Miller's BEYOND DREAMS, Roberts' SUN ADA BEACH, and Cadd's RED THUMBPRINTS. In the same garden, I was also attracted to Stahly's CALL WAITING, Kerr's COME RUNNING, Aitken's MAUI SURF, Keppel's BROAD SHOULDERS, Innerst's EROTIC TOUCH, and Schreiner's MERLOT. (And yes, *some* of these breeders' names *were* familiar to me.) Space prevents me from naming every variety that caught my eye ... but they were legion. Only lack of space in my garden will limit how many can find a home at Laughingstock.

Certain moments stand out in my memory: unexpectedly meeting Christine Dickinson, a former employee of my old mentor, Bill Maryott; the glow of pleasure on Anna Cadd's face as she showed me the unique "cat and iris" necklace her husband bought for her at the Geek Dinner auction; finding I had so much in common with Philip Remare, when I was lucky enough to have a few minutes with him in Keppel's garden. And how could I forget John Turner's expression when I asked him to take my picture with Barry Blyth? Or my embarrassment when I mistook Roger Duncan for my bus captain, Bob Williamson, and got annoyed that he didn't know when the bus was leaving. (It was the beard that fooled me.)

The thing that surprised me most, I guess, was that my own humble offerings didn't seem out of place among the beauties at this convention. MELANCHOLY MOMENT, one of my favorites, bloomed taller and more magnificently than I have ever seen it in my home garden. DESERT UMBER, consistently mislabeled MOTLEY FOOL in most of the gardens, was as distinctive as I had thought, and drew many comments. My greatest joy, of course, came from seeing LAUGHINGSTOCK strutting its stuff in the convention gardens.

Goethe wrote: *What you can do, or dream you can, begin it; Boldness has Genius, Power, and Magic in it.* He failed to mention *chutzpah* ... surely this was an oversight? 

Questions & Answers

Question from the Editor: While putting together my letter to the USDA, which appeared in the April issue, I wrote to Don Spoon to ask whether it would be technically correct to refer to the rhizome as "part of the stem". I received the following helpful reply. I'm not sure that I understand all of it, but it is useful information, and it also helps to explain some of the importing problems that we have been having. BF

Rhizome, Stem, Stalk, and Crown by Don Spoon, Virginia

In bearded irises, the rhizome is the name for the underground storage stem. However, actually what we call the stalk of an iris plant is an upright, elongate stem with unequal pairs of leaves (blades) at the internodes where branches (plus short, one flowered spur) occur. Each flower bud has two modified leaves at the stalk (stem) nodes called the spathes that enclose the flower. A terminal bud with three flowers has six spathes, two for each flower, and three very short stalk (stem) internodes where each flower branches off from the stem. The flower parts are considered to be modified leaves that grow from the stalk (stem). Plant hormones in different parts of the stem induce cells to greatly elongate or remain shortened creating the different internode lengths of the stem.

The problem is that we talk about shipping rhizomes as if there were dried bulbs. But the "rhizomes" we ship usually have: 1. fans of trimmed blades (leaves) that are paired at each node; 2. increases on each side of the storage stem (rhizome) occurring in pairs; 3. roots arising from the undersurface of the rhizome mainly below the crown of the fan of blades; and 4. portions of rhizome (storage stem) without increases or roots at the toe end of the foot-like iris plant. We say in our Winterberry Gardens catalog that we do not ship dried, dormant rhizomes like found in bins in some garden centers. Rather we ship iris plants with a moderately trimmed fan of blades and roots. Dried iris rhizomes take weeks to break dormancy and produce new leaves and

roots while the iris plants we send by priority mail actually continue to grow elongate center blades, and their roots and blades resume growth as soon as they are planted and watered in at their new home. When we ship overseas we usually allow the iris plants to dry for two or three days rather than the one day for domestic shipments.

All of us who sell iris plants have to educate people not to use the word “bulbs” for the iris rhizomes. However, there are “bulbs” or “bulblets” that grow from each side of the rhizomes of very well grown iris plants. These occur at the other end from the end with the crown with the fan of blades. Some people call these “bulblets” the little piglets. These “bulblets” break off easily and have overlapping white leaves occurring in pairs. They are pretty good facsimiles of bulbs with short roots in the center at their bases as found in the bulbous irises.

Actually, the crown is more like a growth stem than a storage stem or rhizome. A fan with six blades will have three narrow, internodes in the growing crown at the ankle of the iris plant foot. This crown area is quite different from the storage part of the stem (rhizome) and can be broken rather easily. The crown has higher water content and is where crown rot and soft rot usually begin. Also, the crown area is where the pairs of new increases, some hidden under the edges of the blades, grow out at the nodes on each side. Compared to the crown, the rhizome portion of the iris plant borders on being “woody,” requiring a sharp knife to cut. As the stem elongates, new internodes will grow new leaves in the crown region and old internodes will lose their leaves in the rhizome region.

Obviously, our specialized terminology for iris plants gets in the way of our understanding of the parts of the iris plant when blooming, not blooming, and when dormant. Technically, the rhizome is not all underground in a well established clump. It might be better to call the rhizome the partially-submerged, horizontal storage part of the stem; the crown the part of the stem with vertical, attached leaves; the elongate, vertical stalk with flowers the sexual reproduction part of the stem; and the laterally growing new increases and “bulblets” the asexual reproductive parts of the stem with their developing fans and roots.

To directly try to answer your question, it might be more correct to say that the leaves are attached to the stem as they develop from the stem across its internodes, rather than to say in reverse that “it (rhizome) is by definition attached to the leaves.” Then, is the part of the rhizome not attached to leaves still defined as the rhizome? Would you also say that “the rhizome is attached to the roots?” Either of these statements have the same illogical problem as saying the trunk of a person is by definition attached to its arms, legs, neck, and head, or the head is

attached to the ears or nose. We usually say smaller parts are attached to the larger part from which they develop. Also, it is the stem that the leaves and roots are attached to as they develop from the stem. Secondly, to say that “a rhizome is a part of a stem” implies that you know what part of the stem is the rhizome. Is the crown portion of the stem really just several nodes with leaves that are in the process of becoming part of the rhizome? Even more problematic, are the new increase and “bulblet” parts of the stem in reality parts of the rhizome? Only the stalk, as an elongated reproduction portion of the stem, would not be part of the rhizome as it is not underground and is not for storage but for use of stored food. We would then conclude that the stem of bearded irises has only two parts, the rhizome with its connected extensions as new increases and “bulblets,” and the stalk with its flowers. The point is that irises do not have underground food storage tubers (modified, enlarged roots) but store food in the horizontal, partially or completely buried stems that we call the rhizomes. If a rhizome is defined as “an underground part of the stem” then is the top portion of the stem that is above ground not part of the rhizome? Even more difficult is our assumption that we know that food is stored exclusively in the rhizome when it is probably also stored in the thick roots, leaves, and stalks as well. The rhizome is a horizontal portion of the stem, with short internodes, anchored to the soil by roots on its ventral surfaces, plus its crown, with vertical leaves as well as lateral new increases and “bulblets.” The stalk with its flowers is the vertical portion of the stem with long and short internodes. ☞



Anthocyanic Vacuolar Inclusions and Iris Genetics

by Chuck Chapman, Ontario, Canada

In the late 1990's a Botanist (Rob Nicholson) searched out a black variety of lisianthus in Mexico, previously described but not in cultivation. He found it and described it thus: "The plant was a single stalked herb to 5 feet, rather open and sparsely branched. But the inch and a half flowers were a special breed. Depending on the angle of sight they were a blackish purple, like the skin of an eggplant, or inky black, fully devoid of color. In bud the emerging flowers looked like glistening drops of coal oil, and when opened they presented a tubular bell of black satin."

He turned some specimens over to Dr. Kenneth Markham of the New Zealand Institute for Industrial Research and Development. An analysis revealed that by dried weight these flowers had 23% of pigment compared to the purple lisianthus in the florist trade, which had 1.1 to 1.4% by weight. This was a very startling discovery and led to some exploration. He found that there was a difference in the cell structure of these flowers. They had granules of pigment inside the cell in addition to the anthocyanin dissolved in the cell sap. Further research showed that there was no membrane to these granules, but the anthocyanins in them were shown to be bound to a protein matrix.

Markham named these granules "Anthocyanic Vacuolar Inclusions" (AVI). They appear to be a hot topic of research with papers being presented in relevant scientific conferences. AVI have been found in grape skins, carnations, roses, and larkspur, and more flowers are being identified as having AVI.

When commercial purple lisianthus flowers were studied, the dark basal area of the petals was found to contain AVI, but the rest of the petal had none. Thus the AVI were limited to the central portion of the commercial lisianthus giving a darker centre, whereas in the Black Beauty (nickname given to the black lisianthus) the AVI were found in the entire flower.

The description of the flower color of the black lisianthus is very much like that of a black iris. The delphinidin pigments found in the lisianthus seem to be the same ones found in iris. The darker color of anthocyanin in iris has often been ascribed to *Iris aphylla*, and it certainly

appears to be a source of this darker effect. However, previous efforts to identify different pigments or different forms of delphinidin in aphylla have been unsuccessful. AVI would appear to be a viable explanation of this darker anthocyanin effect in *Iris aphylla* and its descendants.

Just as in the purple lisianthus, AVI in iris could account for what we see in signal spots that are black or near black such as the pumila spot and aril spot. These have been a mystery for some time, especially as no pigment differences have been located in these signal areas. There are signal areas in many beardless iris that could also be due to AVI.

Robert Schreiner presented evidence in the AIS *Bulletin* in July, 1958, that the black-colored irises were the result of *Iris aphylla* genes which intensified the amount of anthocyanin in these flowers. This proposal has been generally accepted to be true. This anthocyanin enhancement from aphylla could be a result of AVI. In his article, Mr. Schreiner also mentions that the dominant reduction of anthocyanin gene "I" didn't completely remove the anthocyanin when a TB was crossed with an aphylla clone. This same observation (incomplete removal of anthocyanin) has been made by a number of people.

I found these studies after starting to look for an explanation for what I had been calling the anthocyanin enhancement (Ae) effect. As I had been researching pigments and patterns in bearded iris, I had found many anomalous effects and data suggesting an interaction effect between pigment and pattern. I have anecdotal evidence from my hybridizing program of an Ae effect. So far, it would appear to be dominant and cumulative. The more dosages of Ae that are present, then the more dosages of "I" are needed to reduce the anthocyanin to the near white phenotype. AVI are a prime suspect to account for these observations.

Robert Schreiner suspected that the blue beards seen in tall bearded iris originated with *Iris aphylla*, and certainly the only other notable species with blue beards in the ancestry of modern bearded irises is *Iris pumila*. There are a number of cultivars with very dark blue beards that are of a very smooth blue tone. A few examples are Blackbeard, Song Of Norway, Az Ap, and codicil. It would seem possible that these cultivars get their coloration from several dosages of Ae and incomplete removal of the anthocyanin. This would also fit in with Dr. Markham's observation that "a blue colour shift" happens with the occurrence of AVI.

Walter Welch had observed that violet and purple in pumilas seemed to be inherited separately. A violet X violet cross never produced purple, and purple X purple never produced violet or blue. This is certainly suggestive that in pumilas we have an Ae effect for the whole flower which, I predict, results in AVI in the purple but not the violet lineage. Indeed, Welch suggested the existence of an "anthocyanin

intensifier gene”.

The pumila story will be most interesting to explore because I have predicted both a generalized expression of AVI throughout the flower and a localized expression related to the spot pattern. Perhaps further work on lisianthus and other flowers¹ will further aid our understanding of patterned expression of flavonoid flower colour.

Certainly the whole area of AVI and anthocyanin enhancement should prove to be a fertile area of future experimentation for the technically inclined iris enthusiast. Direct observation of AVI requires some skill with a microscope as well as access to a good quality instrument. My efforts have met with some obstacles but involvement of an experienced microscopist would greatly facilitate progress of some enthusiastic amateur investigators. I will be making some test crosses to further explore the genetics of Ae this year. Anyone wishing to contribute to either the hybridizing or the microscopy work should contact me at <irischapman@netscape.net> or by posting on one of the internet iris lists.

Definitive research to document the occurrence and localization of AVI in iris will require involvement of an appropriate academic research laboratory. I will be collaborating with the Science Advisory Committee of AIS to attract academic researchers to the effort.

Footnote:

¹ Another important aspect of Markham's work involved investigating how 'colourless' flavonoids, such as flavonol glycosides, make flower petals yellow.

“Microscopy on petal sections of a sweet pea relative, *Lathyrus chrysanthus*, and of white lisianthus, which is yellow at the base of the petal, gave us startling new insights into the location of the colourless flavonol glycosides.”

“We saw the glycosides not only in the cell vacuoles where they were expected, but also within the cell walls and in the cytoplasm which surrounds the vacuole,”

“In lisianthus, the cytoplasm-located flavonol glycosides were seen only in the yellowish inner region of the petal. In the completely yellow *Lathyrus* petal, they were found throughout.

By isolating and analysing cytoplasmic tissue we confirmed the presence of flavonoids in the cytoplasm. Then by using in vitro model systems to reproduce this colour, we concluded that the binding of 'colourless' flavonol glycosides to cytoplasmic protein produces the observed petal yellowing.”

It is clear that the newly discovered phenomenon of water soluble flavonoids binding to specific proteins, whether within the vacuole to form AVI or within the cell cytoplasm, has dramatic effects on flower colour. Colour intensification, stability and a blue colour shift have all been shown to result from such interactions.

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New introductions by Hooker & Bonnie J Nichols

Bearded & Louisiana Irises

New York Times Article on Irises

On June 27, 2006, the *New York Times* published an article on hybridizers' search for a red iris. We hope we will be able to obtain permission to reprint the article in the *Bulletin*. In the meantime, the article may be read, for a fee, at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/27/science/27iris.html? r=1>

The MEIS (Middle European Iris Society) Convention, 2006

The 2006 MEIS Convention took place on May 19-21 in Slovakia. The planting of irises was in the Botanic Garden of the Agriculture University in Nitra. This wonderful town is the historic jewel of Slovakia, located under the historic and fabulous hill of Zobor. The weather was very unpleasant, raining throughout the Convention. However, in spite of the weather, the event met its purpose: meeting of friends, sharing of experiences, a very pleasant session at the vineyard of Veľké Zálužie. We believe that everyone enjoyed this event.

MEIS Competition results

Seedlings:

1st place	AM-00/0539-2	Anton Mego	88,0	Slovakia
2nd place	AM-99/0450-1	Anton Mego	84,5	Slovakia
3rd place	95-TGRI-2	Josef Dudek	78,5	Czech Republic
4th place	AM-98/0274-3	Anton Mego	77,5	Slovakia
5th place	ZK-00-13-C	Zbigniew Kilimnik	75,0	Poland
	99-DCSA-5	Josef Dudek	75,0	Czech Republic

Slovak Cup	AM-00/0539-2	Anton Mego
Czech Cup	95-TGRI-2	Josef Dudek
Polish Cup	ZK-00-13-C	Zbigniew Kilimnik

Named Cultivars:

1st place	LACY MODELING	L. Muska	Slovakia
2nd place	ORANGE CLOWN	L. Muska	Slovakia
	LONGIN POHAN	Jirí Dudek	Czech Republic
3rd place	SATURABICO	L. Muska	Slovakia

Carpathian Medal

LACY MODELING L.Muska 

Judging in Florence, 2005

by Bruce Filardi, Oregon

It's well known that I travel a great deal. Yet, among my many trips to Europe, one of the very best was my 10-day stay in Florence in 2005 to judge at the International Iris Competition. The experience was exciting, exhilarating, and exhausting. The *people* were a large part of what made the trip so unique and rewarding – above all my fellow judges and Italian Iris Society members Valeria Romoli, Valeria Roselli, and Maria Carla Monaco, who gave up their own lives for a week to extend their hospitality and their company to their visiting guests.

The *Bulletin* is not a place for a travelogue, so I will try to keep the “touristy” aspect to a minimum. Nevertheless, the people and places are intertwined with the iris experience of the trip, and this report would be woefully incomplete without some of the non-iris information and pictures. I apologize in advance to any members who feel that I am including too many non-iris anecdotes.

I left for Italy on the Friday before the start of the Competition, in some ways reluctant about the trip, both because I hated to leave behind my own garden and hybridizing, and because I honestly wondered if I would be up to the task. I knew that I would be part of judging panel which included world-renowned experts like Clive Russell from Britain and Izidor Golob from Slovenia. I wondered if my assessments of the cultivars would be completely different from theirs, either because of national preferences or because of my own incompetence. Truly, as much as I looked forward to the event, I was also afraid that I might not do a good job and would embarrass myself and the American Iris Society. Two iris-interested neighbors made the trip with me. We flew non-stop from Portland to Frankfurt. We had hoped to make a quick trip via the S-Bahn into the Old Town section of Frankfurt during our layover; unfortunately, torrential rain changed our plans, and we spent many hours of glassy-eyed boredom at the Frankfurt airport instead – not a good omen for the rest of the trip!

Upon arrival around 6 pm on Saturday to glorious, sunny weather in Florence, we picked up our rental car, a beautiful new Volvo. After loading all of our luggage into the car, I tried to get going... spent about half an hour trying to get the car out of the parking spot, and only

managed to move about 10 feet. I finally swallowed my pride and went back to the car rental office. An employee came out, made one attempt to move the car, then announced that we had a defective transmission and exchanged that car for another one. Another snag encountered – and this time conquered! But I had to wonder to myself if this trip was shaping up to be full of pitfalls: First we'd been unable to get out of the Frankfurt airport; second, we had a great deal of difficulty getting out of the Florence airport. But things went smoothly from then on.

We made our way to the hotel that would be our home for several days. We were thrilled to see that it was located right on a park overlooking the Arno River. As we drove up to the entrance, I parked behind a little Fiat, driven by a familiar-looking person. I'd recently seen a picture of Anne Barbetti (an Oregonian who married an Italian and lives in Florence; she had recently visited Portland, but I'd missed our local meeting which she attended). Sure enough, it was Anne, so I got an early meeting with this bubbly, enthusiastic, energetic lady who was another of the Competition judges. Anne had kindly picked up a friend of mine who had traveled by train from Germany to spend a few days in Italy with our group.

The Hotel Silla was a thoroughly wonderful place to stay, and I give it my highest recommendation for anyone who is looking for a centrally-located hotel in Florence. It has the ever-important *Location*, but more than anything else, the hotel's staff was warm, courteous, and friendly. I intended to include the names of all the staff members who were so particularly kind and helpful, but unfortunately too much time has passed. Suffice it to say that they went out of their way to be gracious, and they even managed to maintain patience through the various permutations of the arrangements I made and then changed and then changed again beforehand, as I tried to put things in place for three people from the US and one from Germany, with different arrival and departure dates. And the lady who ran the breakfast room provided us with delicious, generous amounts of food, and had the forbearance to put up with all our idiosyncrasies and special requests. Thank you, Hotel Silla, you were truly a home away from home! (www.hotelsilla.it)

On Sunday we were up early and ready to go! I thought I'd be the first of our group at breakfast, but the two ladies were there before me. (I probably shouldn't say this, but throughout the trip, I was amazed at the amounts of food that these two petite women were able to ingest.) Lo and behold, another judge was also there: Clive Russell. I had met him a few years earlier when he was here in Portland for the Japanese Iris Convention, but in the meantime he had appended some facial camouflage (i.e. a beard), so I didn't recognize him. He came over to the table a bit later and (re-)introduced himself, so we had a pleasant reunion and he met my

friends. I was excited at the prospect of seeing the Competition Garden for the first time, so all travel plans were deferred to the priority of a garden visit. I knew that it was located near the famous outdoor statue of Michelangelo's *David* on the Piazzale Michelangelo, but I had been unable to find it on a previous visit. This time, with much help from locals, we found it – and I couldn't believe I'd missed it the previous time! The weather was perfect, and the garden was full of contented Italian families on their Sunday morning stroll. It was really a pleasure to see so many “non-iris” people wandering about and enjoying the display of beauty. The Competition Garden is truly a treasure for the people of Florence!

I spent some time there, amazed at the quantity and selection of irises, and once again overwhelmed by the enormity of my responsibility. Our judging results would become part of the 50-year history of this impeccable garden, and a small part of the history of this beautiful city. I also spent a little time explaining to Lotte (my friend from Germany, who is, I regret to say, a non-gardener) some of the basic qualities that make a good iris. As I was heading for the exit, I heard a little voice calling “Who are you?” At first I thought it was a Florentine angel raising an existential dilemma; and, in fact, it *was* a Florentine angel, but one of flesh and blood: the charming, petite bundle of energy named Valeria Romoli, Director of the Competition, who was at the garden to put finishing touches on a few display beds. I'm sure there are many, many people who play a major role in the ongoing success and worldwide importance of the Competition, but Valeria is the “face” of the Criterium dell'Iris, as it is known in Italian. The Competition owes a great deal of its international profile to Valeria's boundless energy and enthusiasm, and her personal charm, organization, and determination.

After spending a few minutes with Valeria, we made a start on our travel plans for the day. Our itinerary was a visit to the beautiful Tuscan hill towns of Monteregione and Volterra, and to end our day with a visit to San Gimignano, then dinner at the very fine Ristorante Dorandó there.





COMUNE DI FIRENZE

CONCORSO INTERNAZIONALE IRIS 20 05

Pianta Concorrente / Competing Plant N° 11

ASPETTO D'INSIEME / PRESENTATION

Personalità / Distinctiveness

PIANTA / PLANT PERFORMANCE

Sviluppo Pianta / Development

Resistenza alle Malattie / Disease Resistance

Stelo e Ramificazione / Stalk and Branching

Fioribondità / Bud Count

Sequenza di Fioritura / Sequence and Timing

FIORE / FLOWER

Colore / Colouring

Forma / Form

Consistenza / Substance

Profumo / Fragrance

PUNTEGGIO TOTALE / TOTAL NOTES

PIANTI RISPONDERIBILI POSSIBLE VOTE	DATA DELLE VOTE VOTING DATE	VALUTAZIONE NOTES
5	10/5	17/5
15	5	5
10	10	10
15	8	7
15	13	11
15	10	12
5	5	5
10	9	9
10	10	8
10	8	8
5	5	4
100	83	79

Media Punteggio/Average Votes 81

NOTE / NOTES

IL MEMBRO DELLA GIURIA / MEMBER OF JURY

13



COMUNE DI FIRENZE

CONCORSO INTERNAZIONALE IRIS 20 05

Pianta Concorrente / Competing Plant N° 50

ASPETTO D'INSIEME / PRESENTATION

Personalità / Distinctiveness

PIANTA / PLANT PERFORMANCE

Sviluppo Pianta / Development

Resistenza alle Malattie / Disease Resistance

Stelo e Ramificazione / Stalk and Branching

Fioribondità / Bud Count

Sequenza di Fioritura / Sequence and Timing

FIORE / FLOWER

Colore / Colouring

Forma / Form

Consistenza / Substance

Profumo / Fragrance

PUNTEGGIO TOTALE / TOTAL NOTES

PIANTI RISPONDERIBILI POSSIBLE VOTE	DATA DELLE VOTE VOTING DATE	VALUTAZIONE NOTES
5	5	2
15	5	1
10	8	3
15	5	5
15	5	6
5	2	2
10	4	3
10	8	7
10	10	8
5	4	2
100	61	37

Media Punteggio/Average Votes 55

NOTE / NOTES

IL MEMBRO DELLA GIURIA / MEMBER OF JURY

13

(The photos will speak for themselves. By the way, don't be fooled by the photo of the restaurant with the neighbor's wash! The restaurant is elegant and excellent.)

On Monday morning, the five judges met for the first time as a group. I had earlier met Anne Barbetti and Clive Russell, so there were just two



Dessert at the Dorandó

more to meet: the ever-ebullient Izidor Golob from Slovenia, and Italian Doralisa Ravenna, who was perhaps the quietest member of our rather vocal group. By the way, this was Izidor's *fourth* time as a judge here. What an honor! At this meeting, Valeria Romoli explained the judging process and the assessment forms that we would fill out for each iris.

I've randomly chosen four of the assessment forms to print with this article. My notes are probably illegible to anyone but me, but I thought it would be interesting for you to actually see a few of the forms. There is some inconsistency from day to day – I covered up all previous ratings so I started each day with a “blank slate”, and I find it particularly interesting to see how some irises went downhill during the hot weather (interrupted by one rainstorm).

The Florence Competition is judged “blind” – the judges are given no idea of the identity or hybridizer or popularity or history of any of the cultivars. It was a fascinating “experiment” for me – in retrospect, I'm amazed that I didn't recognize more of them beforehand, but I also made a conscious effort to *not* recognize them. I admit that I recognized QUEEN'S CIRCLE and REVERE, but I was careful to judge those two as objectively as all the unknowns.

Our first job was to ruthlessly pre-evaluate all of the plants in the 2005 garden: 108 TBs and approximately 16 BBs. Of these, we were able to “weed out” all but 38 TBs and approximately 8 BBs which were worthy of further consideration. If a plant was borderline, we gave it the benefit of the doubt, as we would rather see a dubious iris get another chance at being judged. The cultivars which made the first cut would then be evaluated three additional times [preferably on three different days], independently by each judge, with no discussion among panel members. On the four assessment forms, you can see how the scores could remain relatively consistent for a stronger iris, or could change – sometimes radically – with time and weather.

We worked hard in the garden on Monday and Tuesday. There was



COMUNE DI FIRENZE

CONCORSO INTERNAZIONALE IRIS 20 05

Pianta Concorrente / Competing Plant N° 105B

ASPETTO D'INSIEME / PRESENTATION

Personalità / Distinctiveness

PIANTA / PLANT PERFORMANCE

Sviluppo Pianta / Development

Resistenza alle Malattie / Disease Resistance

Stile e Ramificazione / Style and Branching

Fiorellinità / Bud Count

Sequenza di Fioritura / Sequence and Timing

FIORE / FLOWER

Colore / Coloring

Forma / Form

Consistenza / Substance

Profumo / Fragrance

PUNTEGGIO TOTALE / TOTAL VOTES

PUNTI DISPONIBILI POSSIBLE VOTE	DATI DELLE NOTE	NOTE IRIS
5	5	5
15	14	12
10	8	8
15	15	12
15	13	13
5	3	4
10	10	10
10	7	8
10	8	10
5	3	3
100	86	85

Media Punteggio/Average Votes 85

NOTE / NOTES

IL MEMBRO DELLA GIURIA / MEMBER OF JURY

B



COMUNE DI FIRENZE

CONCORSO INTERNAZIONALE IRIS 20 05

Pianta Concorrente / Competing Plant N° 66

ASPETTO D'INSIEME / PRESENTATION

Personalità / Distinctiveness

PIANTA / PLANT PERFORMANCE

Sviluppo Pianta / Development

Resistenza alle Malattie / Disease Resistance

Stile e Ramificazione / Style and Branching

Fiorellinità / Bud Count

Sequenza di Fioritura / Sequence and Timing

FIORE / FLOWER

Colore / Coloring

Forma / Form

Consistenza / Substance

Profumo / Fragrance

PUNTEGGIO TOTALE / TOTAL VOTES

PUNTI DISPONIBILI POSSIBLE VOTE	DATI DELLE NOTE	NOTE IRIS
5	4	2
15	12	7
10	6	6
15	11	9
15	6	5
5	4	3
10	8	4
10	6	4
10	8	4
5	3	2
100	67	37

Media Punteggio/Average Votes 37

NOTE / NOTES

Very good by 21 judges

very poor 1st

IL MEMBRO DELLA GIURIA / MEMBER OF JURY

35

a buffet-style reception in the garden at lunchtime on Monday, with food provided by the members of the Italian Iris Society. Everything was delicious, but the specific item that looms large in my memory was Doralisa Ravenna's delicious *pappa pomodoro*, a Tuscan specialty: a wonderful, thick, cold tomato soup, somewhat reminiscent of gazpacho, but with distinctive Italian spices. I would travel to Florence just to taste it again! (And luckily for me, the wonderful Hostaria del Bricco, the restaurant where we had our non-group meals, also offered a delicious version of this specialty; more about the Bricco later.) On Tuesday, we were luncheon guests at the incomparable hillside home of the charming and hospitable Pia Scopese, whose property is complete with a skyline view of Florence, as well as a medieval tower. A bit of a damper was put on the day when my friends arrived back at the hotel after a day of touring Florence; Lotte's wallet had been pickpocketed from her backpack near the Accademia where they would see *David*. Aside from that, they had had a wonderful day, one of whose highlights was a trip up into the dome of the Cathedral for breathtaking, close-up views of the frescoes there.

Wednesday was the judges' "day off" when Valeria Romoli, Valeria Roselli, and Anne Barbetti took the judges and friends to visit the area around Florence. In the morning we toured two Medici villas, one of which included a fascinating garden of unusual citrus plants (see photos). For lunch we were welcomed to the private villa of Françoise Steinhäuslein, an idyllic setting with extensive gardens and views. (For anyone interested in a beautiful space to stay outside of Florence, Mrs. Steinhäuslein rents out some small cabins on her property, and I couldn't think of a nicer place to spend a getaway week.) After lunch, we proceeded to *I Tatti*, the home and art collection of the late, renowned art connoisseur Bernard Berenson. Our tour of the collection was another high point of the trip for me, due in large part to the enthusiasm, knowledge, and skill of our guide, docent Susan Arcamone-Wilson; I could have happily spent an entire day listening to Susan's erudite discussion of the collection and its contents, but, unfortunately, we were on a limited schedule... We then toured the extensive garden of the villa, with the help of the dedicated, gifted, and welcoming gardener, Margrit Freivogel, a young woman from Switzerland who had been invited to Italy to work at *I Tatti*. What a joy this visit was! *I Tatti* is at the top of my list for a future, more leisurely visit!

Thursday and Friday found us back in the garden, re-assessing the competitors, and finally choosing the special awards such as best fragrance, best red, best violet, etc. By the way, I should note here that one unique aspect of the Florence Competition is that the flower's

fragrance is part of the plant's overall score. I assume that this is because, historically speaking, the iris played an important role in Florence's economy, due in part to its uses in the perfume industry. At any rate, judging the fragrance adds a certain dimension to the assessment, which we do not include in the States. Also of interest are the specific color requirements for "best red" and "best violet". The best red iris is the one that most closely approaches the shade of red in the coat-of-arms of the City of Florence. The best violet iris is the one whose color most closely approaches the color of the Florentine football (soccer) team! Doralisa Ravenna, as wife and mother of committed fans, brought us a soccer shirt for color comparisons! After final assessments were completed in the garden on Friday, the judges gathered with Valeria Romoli and the Secretary of the Italian Iris Society, the beautiful and effortlessly elegant Maria Carla Monaco, and – with the help of computer, calculator, and manual tools – came up with the final results of the Competition (which appeared in full in the July '05 issue of the *Bulletin*). I was tremendously relieved to find that *all* of the judges had assessed the top irises almost identically; some were more generous and some less generous with the actual point scores, but the overall rankings were amazingly uniform. There were absolutely no arguments or disagreements about the results! To refresh the memory, Tom Johnson's PAUL BLACK was the overall winner, with high awards also to QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Kerr), SUN FUN (Johnson), and BB TANGO BOND (Bianco).


In addition to the meals mentioned earlier, we never failed to dine well! On one evening we were invited to dinner at the magnificent home of Paola Ibba, where we feasted on delicacies in the style of her hometown of Bologna. After the final results were compiled on Friday, we were invited by Margaret Cameron Longo to her home for a good Scottish tea. Margaret, born in Scotland, has spent her entire married life in Florence, and was one of the original driving forces of the Criterium dell'Iris. I think of her as the doyenne of the Italian Iris Society, and somehow she has managed to maintain part of her Scottish personality while developing an Italian air as well. We were saddened to hear a few weeks ago of the loss of her husband of many years.

On other nights (when there were no plans for the group as a whole), we dined happily at the Hostaria del Bricco on via San Niccolò behind our hotel. My favorite dish was the *tagliate*, thin slices of steak and radicchio, briefly fried in olive oil. And, of course, the *pappa pomodoro*! I think this is now my favorite restaurant in all of Europe! It is reasonably priced and maintains an unaffected feel. It is presided over by a young artist named Daniele Bacci (some of his fascinating, Picasso-esque art adorns the walls), while his mother is the talented cook. Don't

miss the Hostaria del Bricco if you travel to Florence – worth a special detour! (www.osteriadelbricco.it) At one of our dinners at the Bricco, Clive Russell, who is Welsh by birth, gave us a wonderful demonstration of the Welsh language; in fact, he sounded quite fearsome, and I wouldn't want to encounter him in full-Welsh mode in a dark alley somewhere! He also taught us how to toast in Welsh, which I remember as sounding like Diffy-Doo, although I'm sure that's quite a poor representation of the actual words.

Saturday was the day of pomp and circumstance. Oddly enough, at breakfast at our hotel that morning, we discovered that – completely by coincidence! – two fellow irisarians, Glenn Guenterberg and Patrice Van Vleet from Colorado, were staying at our hotel, so we invited them to the awards event. We enjoyed the full regalia of Florentine ceremony in the historic town hall, with traditional Florentine heralds, awarding of the various prizes, and speeches (including quite a rousing one by Izidor Golob, praising the Iris Garden and lamenting the attempts of a nearby campground to annex part of the property). After the ceremony, Valeria Roselli took us for a parting view of Florence from the medieval tower of the Hotel Torre Guelfa, a wonderful end to our Florentine experiences. We then proceeded to the elegant restaurant on the Piazzale Michelangelo for the awards banquet luncheon.

One rather comical moment occurred before the start of the Awards Ceremony. I was making (an extremely rare!) appearance in jacket and tie, which only happens about once a year, and then only if I can't avoid it. Throughout the week in Florence, there had been a very attractive and exquisitely dressed woman who participated in all the events. I won't mention her name; I'll simply refer to her as T.T. Anyway, up until that point, she had probably only seen me in casual shirts and short pants. When I said hello to her before the ceremony, at first she didn't recognize me. Then, when she realized who I was, she said, "Oh, I didn't recognize you with your shirt on!" Luckily, her husband was not on hand to hear that! (And let me reassure you that she was simply mis-translating; she meant that she didn't recognize me in *shirt and tie*!)

And suddenly it was Sunday morning – the last day before departure. We three Americans (Lotte had left earlier in the week, due to work responsibilities) took a road trip to the hill towns of Todi and Orvieto. Orvieto's cathedral was amazing! We enjoyed a relaxed day, a day to unwind after the very full schedule of the preceding week. We even had our first pizza of the entire stay in Italy! On Monday, we flew back home to Portland, after an experience that passed much too quickly. 

Fighting Gophers, Moles, and Voles

by Anna Cadd, California

It was a dark and very cold day in December; I was catching up with long-overdue e-mails, when a desperate note from Alleah Middling grabbed me: "*I finally figured out why I can't grow iris (no increases). We have so many gophers and moles and possibly voles that they eat the rhizomes. I absolutely must invest in traps and learn to trap the d**ed things. Alleah*"

Well, this brings back horror stories from our own lost battles.....

1. "Drench them in water". Someone gave me this advice and I thought: "Let's try it, why not?" I took a long hose to the field, found the gopher hole, stuck the hose into the hole and started to pour water into it. I thought that I had some time, so I brought the lounge chair and a book. Everything was going fine until I fell asleep. When I finally awoke, the lounge chair was sliding in the mud, a nearby house was shifting on the flooded foundation, and at the end of the field the gopher was keeping his head above the ground, waving a white flag with the sign "I will survive!" The water bill came the next month, and we've been broke ever since.

2. "Gas them with gas". This solution sounds like an easy one. So I sent David to the local hardware store, and the optimistic boy came back with a handful of gas sticks. We stuck them into the numerous holes and lit them. For a day nothing happened, but the next day the poisonous gas was drifting from every hole in the ground. The gopher on the end of the field was holding his sign again. The credit card bills from the hardware store come next month...

3. "Plant caper spurge or mole plant (*Euphorbia lathyris*)". Okay, we got this one. This is a plant native to the East coast, but will of course grow like a weed in California. It's an annual plant with lanceolate leaves that is often grown as an ornamental. All parts of these plants emit a milky sap when broken. The leaves are arranged oppositely on the stem and also have conspicuous white midveins. Flowers are green to greenish yellow in color. I planted five small seedlings on the end of each bed, and with our fertilizing program soon the plants were five feet tall

and formed a nice “forest” on the field. Did I mention roots to China? The next year the seedlings were everywhere, and the gopher was holding a new sign with a big smiley face on it. No cost to us, however. Seriously, this method looks like it is working a little.

4. “Get hunter cats”. Okay, we got two cats, Blackie and Bootsie. So far, one mole found dead. The cats sit for hours, looking down the holes with great concentration. The gophers look back at them with great concentration from different holes. The bill for the cat food will arrive next month.

5. “Stick auto road flares into the holes”. I don’t need to explain the bills from the local, state and federal fire departments. We discovered that gophers are not afraid to wear asbestos suits.

6. “Pour deer pee into the holes”. Easy to do if you have deer and they are willing to cooperate. On the other hand, some deer also like irises. We saw them shaking hands with the gophers. The smiles were all over their fuzzy faces.

7. “Stick chewing gum into the holes”. From my experience gophers like to chew Wrigley’s spearmint gum the best, while the moles prefer watermelon bubble gum. Voles are not picky, they will chew whatever they can put their paws on. The cost is not so great, but it adds up.

8. “Put mothballs into the holes and pour chlorine over it”. I’m told that the two chemicals will go into chemical reaction and wipe out the rodent population. Needless to say, the gophers are wearing very clean underwear. Good method to sterilize your soil also.

9. “Put fish in every hole”. After 3 days in the hot California sun, the fish will stink like a not-invited guest and will drive the gophers crazy and into the neighbors’ yard. Well, they didn’t last three days. The gophers just ate the fish the same night, thanking the Lord for the free meal.

10. “Stick beer bottles in the holes at an angle”. The idea is to trap wind that is blowing close to the ground, and the wind will make a deep, ghoulish sound, which will drive the gophers away. Okay, there is no wind in summer in California, and we were the subject of suspicious investigations from all the neighbors and the laughingstock of the entire city. There were also concerns about where we got all these beer bottles. Another approach to try: ultrasonic devices (don’t ask about the price)... They are successfully blocking all radio waves coming to my radio. Gophers recently switched to satellite radios, so this doesn’t bother them.

11. “Get determined husband to work on the project”. So one happy day David went to Harmony Farm Supply, and come back with strange pieces of barbed wire, ropes, huge chunks of metal and several pages of instructions, written in English in China. He went out to the field and

everything was sort of silent for several days, not counting moaning and groaning at night. Then one day I discovered why. His whole chest and belly area was black and blue; when I regained consciousness after fainting, he explained that the trap fired back on him and according to David "this thing kicks like a mule." It took him a whole month to recover. The hospital bill was paid by insurance. The insurance rate went up. The traps were dropped in the shed; and the gophers, moles and voles all sent sympathy cards.

That concludes the methods we've tried as of today. The critters are sending invitations to their friends and relatives for a fiesta at Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden.

[This article was previously printed in the Santa Rosa Iris Society Newsletter, January 2006.] 

The Nies Chronicles

by Nancy Nies

Iwould like to express my gratitude to all who aided and encouraged me a few years ago when I was compiling a historical chronicle for the American Iris Society on Eric Nies, my grandfather, and the irises he hybridized. I am very grateful to you all, and want to take this opportunity to thank you once again for playing a part in this project.

I am pleased to announce that the American Iris Society has recently published The Eric Nies Chronicle. The book contains biographical information, writings by and about Eric Nies, interviews with people who knew him personally, his hybridizing records, and a bibliography. It has been published in a spiral-bound, 8.5" x 11" format and has 103 pages and 60 black-and-white and color photos.

The Eric Nies Chronicle may be ordered from the AIS Storefront at (503) 826-8808 or <aisstorefront@juno.com>.

Flightlines

Hybridizing Iris: Random Notions Gleaned from the Internet

by Shannon Hiatt, Novice Hybridizer

My return to hybridizing iris after a 30-plus year hiatus isn't a rare occurrence, as many Baby Boomers elect retirement and seek former hobbies. The internet has proven to be a real boon for me; it is a virtual treasure trove of information. All I had to do was read through hundreds of pages of online material to glean a few key ideas. These I offer for all novice hybridizers (and maybe for some NOT so novice hybridizers).

As a fulltime lurker on the Iris Talk forum, I have many fine iris hybridizers to thank for providing these notions that have helped me begin anew with iris. I can't, and won't, name them (save one later in this article) as I don't want to offend anyone by leaving out a name. Suffice it to say that there are many people on that forum to whom I owe gratitude. But let's get going with the notions I've discovered. My apologies if my translation of these notions misses the mark. Any mistakes herein are mine, and not the fault of the marvelous folks at Iris Talk.

You've heard this before, but here goes: have clearly defined GOALS. Adapt these goals based on the breeding outcomes each season. Plan BEFORE you proceed. Ah, having a plan may cramp your style, but if you are in your mid-50s as I am, you may not have the luxury of simply diving in to SEE what the water is like. You 20-somethings have a bit more leeway. Use it. Get started NOW. Trust me on this.

A. Selecting Breeders:

- 1) **Performance** – Grows well in wide geographic areas (look for iris with the AM behind their name), vigorous root development, 3-5 increases per rhizome per year, well-formed foliage, good branching and bud count [two branches, spur and terminal w/ a minimum of six to seven buds and good, solid stems], rot resistant [above average overall health]. What you want are exceptional garden plants that are hardy and grow well in many growing conditions; have few health problems and need little care; produce a mass of blooms year after year; and grow well in your garden.

- 2) **Pedigree** – Select varieties that complement each other; select varieties from KEY iris breeders [those varieties being used by the TOP hybridizers]; select varieties that need improvement; select varieties that have personal appeal. But don't forget to use some of the tried and true varieties like Blue Suede Shoes and Breakers and Honky Tonk Blues.
- 3) **Physical attributes** – Clean color and excellent pattern [if a patterned variety], excellent form [shape and character of the flower; good proportion in the overall plant], width at hafts, well-domed standards, substance, good height, ruffling, no haft markings, and the intangible “attention-getting” qualities that are difficult to quantify, i.e., speckle and line pattern à la Ghio and Keppel, color contrast in amoenas or variegatas, diamond dusting, luminous glow as found in luminatas, or the garden presence of a classic like Dusky Challenger. There is a reason it is at the top of the all-time favorite iris list. I'd opt for garden presence coupled with flower size and that satin, almost oiled sheen on the falls.
 - a. **Color:** new or unusual color combos on standards, falls, or beards; clean hafts; and color that does not fade.
 - b. **Modern flower form:** proportional, beautiful blooms no matter their size; wide hafts; semi-circular wide falls that overlap; lots of ruffling or lace; and stylish blooms with good substance.
 - c. **Plant characteristics:** good height; good branching of at least two branches with spur and terminal; good branching, however, can come and go in a line. Well-branched parents can produce poorly branched offspring. Three-way “show” branching is ideal; good bud count of at least 7 buds; buds open one flower at a time in succession and are evenly spaced on stalk; strong stalks that can support blooms; and thick, evenly spaced leaves.
- 4) **Origin** – Use only the best iris from the BEST hybridizers; use the newest varieties available in the COLORS with which you want to work. They become the in-garden benchmark. If you haven't SEEN the best or have them growing in your garden, how will you equal or exceed or breed the best? You won't!

B. Characteristics to Avoid in Breeders: plants that lack vigor – no increase or unhealthy growth; undersized blooms; tailored blooms of older form; bad branching; bad bud positioning on stalks; weak stalks; poor bud count; poor color; dirty hafts; strappy falls; open standards; poor substance; infertility; poor pollen production; or iris

that will not set pods readily. It is irksome to this novice to pay good money for a beautiful iris that produces NO pollen or will NOT set a pod.

C. Hybridizing Advice: Some Basic Guidelines:

- 1) Make three to five crosses in EACH COLOR project/line when possible, i.e., reds or blues or plicatas.
- 2) Make reciprocal crosses of the same cross, if possible. Make more when the blooms are available.
- 3) Do not be afraid to repeat crosses – crosses YOU have made that have failed or were a success; crosses made by OTHER hybridizers that produced outstanding iris. **No two crosses from the same parents will ever produce identical iris, even in line-bred families.** Others suggest they won't make the same crosses as say, Barry Blyth, because Barry has already made them. See above for my response to that notion. You decide.
- 4) Make a few wide crosses outside your line each season, but again to lines that are complementary. Add a few new iris each year for this purpose. Wildly "wide" crosses are generally counterproductive but can be "fun" projects; call these "dinkin' around projects."
- 5) If 50% of your crosses produce pods, that is a good percentage. It is usually lower, however; 30% is an average to strive for, although I have been content with 15% to 20% takes in dry, hot West Texas. Always strive to improve your technical skills. Hybridizing is a technical skill coupled with knowledge of local weather, your microclimate (which may vary from the average local weather picture), and your iris. It also requires a lot of luck.
- 6) Plant a minimum of 25 to 50 of each cross in order to examine the potential of that cross. Keep in mind that some crosses only produce a few seeds or have a few seedlings germinate. Accept what comes your way in this regard, but strive to improve your cultural skills. Success in germinating seeds and growing seedlings to bloom size is a cultural skill. Success in maintaining healthy iris beds is a cultural skill. Complacency can wipe out a year's worth, or more, of hybridizing efforts. Become technically proficient.
- 7) Select seedlings that are BETTER than their parents; those that move your breeding program forward. Hope for a seedling that will help your program make a LEAP forward. When you see a Louisa's Song, Fogbound, or Queen's Circle in the iris patch, you'll KNOW what I mean.
- 8) Select new color patterns and combinations; select seedlings

that are both pleasing to the eye and different or unique. Is this another Quandary or is it something different? A few projects to consider:

- a. Develop pinks that are deep pink with minimal salmon shading.
- b. Or produce pinks with better branching and height and vigor.
- c. Pinks generally have good fertility and germination rates. They can be the first seeds to germinate in a cross that contains some pinks.
- d. Think of pinks as non-purples; they carry the genetics for purple but purple is suppressed in a pink iris.
- e. Breed for a pink iris with a blue beard—tough project. Cross a blue-bearded pink with a blue bearded white, then cross these back to blue bearded pinks. Have you noted the efforts by a hybridizer named Niswonger here? Years of work. I'm sure there are others dedicated to this goal as well. I'm not young enough.
- f. Try crossing pinks with reds. Or with orange iris. I think it was Joe Ghio, or was it Keith Keppel?, who stated that many good reds have that orange tint to them and come from a cross of red and orange iris.
- g. True reds might be produced by crossing tangerine bearded iris with reds.
- h. Consider crossing a pink with a lavender or lavender-pink iris, like Ruffled Goddess.
- i. Poem of Ecstasy is another good iris to cross with a pink as it produces wide falls, enormous flowers, and wide branching. Some of its progeny have better color depth than Poem of Ecstasy, too. Wench has been suggested as well.
- j. Pink X violet (w/ tangerine beard) will give about half pink and half violet.
- k. Tangerine bearded (TB) violets X TB violets will give all violets (or the occasional plicata).
- l. One breeder says a better outcross for pink iris is to a dark yellow then those progeny back to pinks. But Fred Kerr says it hasn't worked for him. He suggests crossing to orange or gold iris. Confusing? Yes, so try both crosses.
- m. And a few hybridizers have crossed whites with pinks, getting a variety of yellows, whites and even pale blues. No pinks were produced in these crosses. Remember that pink is a recessive.


- n. Develop a black iris with a pure white beard. This would offer superb contrast if accomplished. Again, I'm too old to undertake such a project.
 - o. Produce more early-blooming black iris so heat won't affect the blooms. This is one of my personal goals for dark iris in my Texas iris beds, along with early blooming reds, and for the same reason. I still might be too old.
 - p. Use Romantic Evening and its numerous progeny on blacks to get better vigor and stalks. New black varieties lack these characteristics, plus bud count and height. Midnight Oil is one variety with these problems, although it is also one of the blackest iris on the market. First progeny from this cross would be bitones, but self blacks would segregate out in later crosses. The iris Tom Johnson would be a help in this project. Now this project is about right for me.
 - q. Breed for a deep maroon iris with a blue beard. Whew! What a combination!
 - r. Orange iris have a tendency to bloom at the top of the stalk; try to produce an orange iris with more blooms lower down on the stalk.
 - s. Develop new or unusual colors or color combos. The color-breakers can help here if you want the unusual. Don't be afraid to make some wide color crosses to accomplish this goal. Use lines with unusual color properties like Fogbound or any of Barry Blyth's smoky, hazy varieties like Poetess, Pharoah's Spirit, or Temple of Time.
 - t. Queen's Circle is a rimmed iris of the "Emma Cook" pattern. When crossed to blues it will produce all amoenas; crossed with amoenas expect to see more amoenas and Emma Cook-patterned progeny; when crossed with another Emma Cook pattern, 100% Emma Cook patterned iris will result. QC bred with top Schreiner blues would be a sure bet, methinks.
- 9) Remember that not all seedlings worth keeping are worth introducing. Color might be attained but form is lacking. Don't discard your BEST seedling IF it can take you a step closer to your goal. Discard all seedlings that do NOT advance the project and meet the criteria mentioned above for selecting breeders.
- 10) Do not coddle seedlings; let nature weed out those NOT disease resistant or vigorous. Select from the survivors. Don't fret over those that are lost along the way. Darwin was correct.

- 11) Grow reselects for two to three years in order to assess increase and clump characteristics. Seedlings that meet selection criteria the first year MIGHT NOT be good enough to keep in year two and vice versa. Some that don't bloom the first year will bloom the second year. Don't be in a rush to introduce without fair evaluation in this regard. If a seedling is worth introducing this year; it will be worth introducing NEXT year.
- 12) Space Agers offer excellent fodder for hybridizing:
 - a. Horned/Flounced (H/F) X Normal (N) = significant proportion of H/F and high rate of reselects.
 - b. N X H/F = best cross for SAs.
 - c. H/F X H/F = most problematic
 - e. H/F X self = complete bust
- 13) Luminatas/Glaciatas are beautiful pattern variants to consider:
 - a. Luminatas often have poor growth and fertility. Use hardy pinks to increase hardiness of luminatas. Or use Christophersen's Texas luminatas.
 - b. Luminatas and plicatas tend to rot easily.
 - c. Genotype of a luminata is postulated as three glaciata genes and one luminata gene.
 - d. Crosses of this series will yield:
 - luminata X luminata = luminatas and glaciatas
 - glaciata X luminata = luminatas and glaciatas (about 50-50)
 - glaciata X zonal = striped plicatas
 - zonal X luminata = some luminatas
 - zonal X zonal = 100% zonals
 - e. Zonal pattern seems to be the homozygous form of luminata (four luminata genes).
- 14) Whites (non-blue) have the gene for suppressing anthocyanin (the dominant gene is found in whites that are bred from a blue line; only one of the four sets of Recessive Reduced Anthocyanin [RRA] genes is required). The blue pigment is simply absent. But these whites can produce blue iris. Silverado is such a white.
- 15) Whites can also be glaciatas (the RRA form of a plicata) in which case all four genes are required. These breed luminatas, plicatas/luminatas, and plicatas when bred to iris that carry the pl series genes. Plicatas are recessive.
- 16) Whites can be pink, orange, yellow, or yellow amoena.
- 17) Most pinks have a mix of glaciata genes.
- 18) To get white beards on pink, careful selective breeding can be useful. Select for pinks with a white area below the beards.

- 19) Barbara's Lace (2003) is an incredible parent for Mike Sutton, throwing laced seedlings in all different colors with great form. This is another variety I'd suggest as a foundation breeder, along with Romantic Evening, Louisa's Song, Decadence, Fogbound, Silverado, and Heaven.
- 20) Good plicatas come from good plicatas and are rarely segregated out of self colors.
- 21) Beard Patterns:
 - a. Graduated – blending smoothly from one color in the heart of the flower to another at the tip of the beard.
 - b. Mixed – two different colors of beard hairs, each hair a solid color, but with the two colors intermingled randomly.
 - c. Layered – each hair having two or more colors, all in the same pattern.
 - d. Double – normal beard flanked by a secondary beard in contrasting colors.
 - e. Composite – more than one pattern; a mixture with layered hairs.
- 22) A blue-bearded white is still a challenge, too; ABs might provide a start.
- 23) Line breed, then out cross to ADD a characteristic lacking in your LINE, then line breed again.

D. Hybridizing Strategies:

- 1) Long Way Around – begin with several iris of the same color (all purple or red or black), or, if you are adventurous, three or four varieties of different colors from either the same hybridizer (stands to reason they might have some common ancestors) or different hybridizers (still might have common ancestors, but probably not). Cross these together. Then line breed for color. This is an example of outcrossing top iris, then line breeding.
- 2) Quick Way Around – procure as many children and grandchildren of a BENCHMARK iris (thanks, Neil Mogensen, for this notion), like Fogbound or Romantic Evening. Cross these together; a fine example of pure line breeding, keeping the iris within a “line.”

One last thought. Have fun while you are attempting to tackle a few of these iris projects. Or just one of them. Develop a plan but do not become a slave to the plan. You've heard how important the journey is, so I won't belabor that clichéd notion. It is the trip, indeed, that makes the destination worthwhile – at least for me! Get daubing! 

RHS Color Chart Information

There is frequently discussion about the availability (or non-availability) of the RHS color chart. The following information was obtained from the Royal Horticultural Society website, www.rhs.org.uk.

The RHS color chart is the standard reference for plant color identification. Published by the RHS, the chart is indispensable to gardeners who value accuracy in identification of plant colors. The color chart also has applications for industries such as food manufacturing (food coloring), chemical engineering, and fabric designing.

It is because the chart has been specially developed to match nature's colors that it has become such a useful tool. 76 new colors have been added to the previously existing 808. These additions fill gaps in the dark purple-black, green, grey, orange, and bright orange ranges, providing color references for previously difficult to match plants including chrysanthemums and irises.


The colors are arranged in four easy-to-use fans and each color patch has a central porthole which can be laid over the object being matched. The fans come with full instructions in six languages.

Price: £135

New RHS Mini Color Chart

This quarter-size version of the full RHS color chart is arranged as one single fan. It contains 244 RHS colors – each one carefully chosen to represent the broad spectrum of color found in the full version. At the more affordable price of £25, it would be useful to anyone wanting to communicate color over the telephone or in writing. To nurserymen, for example, the chart would be a useful way of specifying exact color to customers wishing to buy plants to suit particular color schemes. To gardeners and garden designers, it would allow forward planning and standardization of their collections.

Price: £25

For further information, visit the website at www.rhs.org.uk 

Food for Thought:

A Call to Hybridizers to Breed Better Garden Plants

by W. George Waters, Oregon

Is there a future for bearded irises in my garden? They were a great disappointment to me in 2005. Almost every leaf on about a hundred plants was spotted early in the season, and their condition worsened each day as the spots merged, turned brown, and withered. The few flower stems produced were either too weak to stand, or carried flowers on flimsy, droopy peduncles. Rot affected too many stems, and these quickly collapsed. The least affected among the plants in the garden held flowers of little substance, so that they opened and wilted within hours.

The 2004 season had been little better. There were fewer bearded irises then, and so the garden scene was less desolate. I was still able to summon optimism sufficient to believe that things would improve when the irises were better established. I planted a couple of dozen new acquisitions, anticipating a display that would delight my wife, Olive, and perhaps earn the admiration of a few iris friends. But the result was a source only of shame and regret. I am not a tyro, after all: I have grown irises for many years; joined the British Iris Society in the mid-fifties, and the American Iris Society in the mid-seventies. The garden is on gritty, well-drained soil – a steep bank lies just below – and the site has the required six hours daily of sunlight. Apart from a few native *Iris tenax*, irises had not grown in the soil before.

What went wrong? The search for an answer began in *The World of Irises*, from the pages of which I concluded that fungi and bacteria infested my plants, causing soft rot and crown rot, in addition to all kinds of leaf spotting and eventual destruction. Sanitation was said in the book to be the way in which some of these afflictions could be checked – not cured or prevented, mark you. Dying leaves were to be removed and burned, infected soil was to be sterilized or replaced with clean. Fungicides such as PCNB and Benomyl were suggested in other cases.

The advice was not encouraging. There is a limit to the amount of bending I am able to do in clearing decaying leaves, and a severe limit on the substances I am willing to spray on my plants. But I found a ray of hope piercing the gloom gathering over the iris beds: seemingly unaffected by the pests that had floored the others, one plant stood out from them all. It was *Iris pallida* ODORATISSIMA, an old diploid iris removed from its

wild parents, if at all, by not more than a generation or two. Does this fine upstanding plant carry a message for a would-be iris grower who loves healthy leaves as well as pretty flowers? Perhaps I could find others equally resistant to disease among the diploids listed by the Historic Iris Preservation Society. Come to think of it, the lovely AMIGO (Williamson, 1934), already growing near my front door, is also clean and fresh. Could it be that innumerable generations of breeding represented in modern bearded irises, while giving us lovely flowers in many novel colors, has left us with plants that have little resistance to disease?

I have not studied plant breeding, but what I have read on the subject suggests that selection over many generations for decorative features inevitably lessens plants' immunity to diseases and pests. A plant breeder choosing from many seedlings will, of course, pay attention to the robustness of selected plants, rejecting those of lesser vigor. But variations in disease resistance among plants in the seedling patch are often masked by routine soil sanitation and enrichment, and may be overlooked during selection. Selection therefore tends towards those qualities of greatest concern for breeders of irises today: flower size, petal substance, and novelty in form and color. Ordinary gardeners rarely provide all that is necessary to maintain susceptible plants free of disease, and, I fear, too many of them with bearded irises are confronting results similar to my own.

An octogenarian now, I am no longer willing to spray or otherwise fuss over plants in my garden. Even if I had no irises at all, there would be plenty of choice among other perennials in local nurseries to furnish an excellent color border. The kinds available seem to increase each year, and their variety in leaf and flower is dazzling. What is more, many of them demand less time and effort in maintenance than do modern bearded irises. Some nurserymen learned this lesson years ago. The famous firm of Kelway & Son, of Langport, in Somerset, England, bred a race of hardy, dependable irises for ordinary gardeners thirty or more years ago. The nursery refused to register the irises, claiming that they weren't the show plants favored by the British Iris Society; they were, instead, plants that their customers could use with confidence in their gardens. The message was clear: the Society had become a social club of enthusiasts entertaining themselves by raising novelties of little real garden merit and circulating awards without regard for the needs of gardeners outside the Society.

There can be no objection to a group of irisarians gathering socially to admire and applaud the results of their colleagues' hybridizing efforts and handing out awards for them. A difficulty arises, however, when the group becomes a national body and is called upon by the horticultural press to advise non-members. The advice given is then likely to reflect

the experience of the members – those specialists, in other words, who are ready to cosset the irises, sterilize soil, and feed plants two or three times a year. There have been efforts by the American Iris Society from time to time to remedy this situation by establishing test gardens where irises given only basic care could be evaluated in a manner that would be helpful to ordinary gardeners. So far it has not been possible to set up gardens in all climatic regions of the country, nor even in enough regions to make a valid test program possible. With the passage of years, a network of test gardens seems to become an ever more distant prospect.

Can the Society find other ways of helping ordinary gardeners? Is it possible to change the direction of iris breeding so as to encourage the production of thriftier, disease-resistant plant? I understand that the U.S. population is aging. Its gardening segment has always been middle-aged to elderly, so things set for strong demands on suppliers of trouble-free plants. Perhaps the longed-for increase in Society membership will depend ultimately on the success of a project that yields disease-resistant irises.

I do want bearded irises in my garden, but must cut back on those that spoil easily. Most of those replanted this year will, I suspect, be those diploids that seem able to stay green during adverse weather and in soil teeming with unfriendly bacteria and fungi.

A Note from the Editor:

At first I was extremely reluctant to even consider printing this article, and, indeed, I have held it for a few months, letting Mr. Waters' ideas simmer in my head a bit. I strongly disagree with some of his observations...

I must especially mention that, here in the Portland area – where both George Waters and I live – the 2005 iris season was very poor; in fact, many of the senior iris-lovers in this area stated that it was the worst season in their entire lifetime. So perhaps George's experience was not typical for this particular climate.

In addition, I firmly believe that proper sanitation does indeed keep the iris garden free of leaf spot. I have never sprayed for leaf spot, and I have never had a problem with it, as long as I remove damaged plant parts before the disease gets ahead of me. Every garden plant needs certain care; some may be "easier" than others, but the rewards may not be as great!

However, I also admit that this article provides very serious food for thought – the reason I assigned that title to it. Once the reader has vanquished his initial anger at the attack on his beloved irises, he must admit that we – the hybridizers of irises and the members of the American Iris Society – must periodically ask ourselves "Where are we going?" I think that George's article raises a few tough questions, but ones that all of us must ask ourselves, especially those of us on whose shoulders rests the future of iris breeding: hybridizers who are creating the irises of the future, and AIS judges, who will be assessing the irises of the future. ❧



ROSALIE FIGGE (the iris)

(McKnew '93, AM '99)

In Memoriam: Rosalie Yerkes Figge

(1909 – 2006)

by Clarence E. Mahan, Virginia

The current generations of active members of the iris society-- people who breed irises, attend conventions, involve themselves in activities of the sections, discuss irises in robins or on the Internet -- cannot remember when Rosalie Figge was not there. She was always there advising, nurturing, encouraging, judging and buying irises, and insisting that people play by the rules. When at the age of 96, she died of congestive heart failure on April 10, 2006, it was as though an era had passed. Our president, Jeanne Clay Plank, put out this announcement on the Internet:

It is hard to believe that someone as endearing and enduring as Rosalie Figge is gone. What a wonderful long life she had and how marvelously she embraced all of it. It is hard to believe that this remarkable individual who possessed so many youthful qualities until the very end of her life—the mischievous charm, delightful wit, perceptive intelligence, daunting energy and bulldog-like tenacity for causes she espoused—has left our midst. Rosalie seemed almost ageless and indestructible even at 96.

It is a wonderful thing for the American Iris Society that one of Rosalie's passions was a love of irises. All Irisarians are much, much richer for having had Rosalie in our midst. Without question we will miss her, but there will always be a part of Rosalie reflected in all the best qualities of this Society she so generously enriched.

Rosalie Figge was always in the avant-garde of the iris world. When others in Maryland were growing only tall bearded irises, Rosalie added beardless irises to her garden and introduced Siberian, Japanese and species irises to hundreds of people who visited her garden each year. She took up the cause of reblooming irises when much of the iris world expressed open disdain. She was editor of the Reblooming Iris Society from 1978 to 1983. Her garden was designated a reblooming iris display and test garden by the Reblooming Iris Society. Woe to the fellow who made a disparaging remark about remontant irises in her presence.

Long an active member of the Association of Parliamentarians, Rosalie served as Region 4's elected parliamentarian for many years. She was often appointed official parliamentarian at AIS board meetings. She

was elected president of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society when she was 80 years old. That society, under her leadership, won the AIS affiliate membership contest twice. At the age of 87 she was elected President of the Reblooming Iris Society and in that position she supervised rewriting of the bylaws, instituted two new honorary awards and had a new *Cumulative Check List of Reblooming Irises* prepared and published. When she completed her term as President at the age of 90, the officers and directors honored her with the Reblooming Iris Society Distinguished Service Award. And then she became a Life Member of AIS! An eternal optimist.

When Dave Niswonger announced the honorary awards that had been approved at the fall meeting of the AIS Board in 1997, and Rosalie Figge was made Emeritus Judge, everyone in attendance stood as a single entity and applauded her. When the noise subsided, Rosalie blushing like a schoolgirl, stood and said, "For once in my life I am speechless. Thank you." Then she sat down.

She was born Rosalie Yerkes in Henderson, North Carolina, on July 30, 1909. She grew up in Pennsylvania, just outside Philadelphia. She graduated from Goucher College, where she majored in English literature. She married Dr. Frank H. J. Figge, who was to become a world-class cancer researcher and the head of the Anatomy Department of the University of Maryland Medical School. Rosalie worked for thirty-five years as her husband's research assistant, editing his papers, preparing specimens, and spending long days in the laboratory supervising the care and breeding of his colony of 10,000 mice.

Rosalie once noticed a very fat spotted male mouse in the research colony she maintained for her husband. She used this obese male mouse to breed a new Figge strain of obese research mice that was subsequently used all over the world in laboratories conducting diabetes research.

Rosalie also edited and indexed her husband's three-volume *Sobotta-Figge Atlas of Human Anatomy*, which became a classic medical reference book. Each year she gave a copy of this book to a deserving medical student and one year it was my son who received it. My son later told me that it was the single most valuable reference book he had while he was in medical school. Rosalie had a son who died in infancy and two daughters, seven grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Rosalie guided and nurtured hundreds of young members of AIS. Almost everyone who ever knew her has his or her own stories about Rosalie's acts of kindness. She was generous in her gifts to those in need, and she was always seeking ways to give to AIS and its sections. She was a fixture at iris auctions. If the iris was an unusual species, a new Siberian, a rebloomer, or a pink tall bearded iris, you just knew she was

going to keep bidding until she had that iris. She would pay outrageous prices to win a bidding war. It was one of her ways of giving money to iris societies. She had great fun doing it. Often she would have given away many of the irises she had purchased at auction before she left the premises, but always out of sight of the crowd.

Rosalie Figge was fiercely independent. She lived alone for the last four decades of her life and was driving herself for workouts with a personal trainer and visits to friends until shortly before her death. She was always learning and her interests in addition to irises included Bible study and religion, genealogy, parliamentary procedure, history, nature, conservation, and photography. She was enthralled with the power of computers and the Internet and corresponded with hundreds of friends by email.

My wife once said that Rosalie was born a liberated woman. She encouraged younger women to be assertive and bold, and in her courtly, but determined way, insisted on women's equality in all endeavors. She was always a friend of the oppressed, the underdog, the weak, and those who could not fend for themselves. The late Jane McKnew, one of her many iris protégées, bred and named a beautiful deep violet reblooming iris in her honor. The iris ROSALIE FIGGE (1996) is now one of the most popular garden irises in Europe as well as in North America.

Always concerned with children in need, she served on the board of Florence Crittenton Services. She was a life member of the Girl Scouts of the USA. She established a fund in her husband's memory to support undergraduate biology research at Colorado College. Goucher College named her a "Goucher Treasure" for 2006. The Edith S. Stidman Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians presented a copy of the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* to the American Iris Society in her memory.

Over the past four years Rosalie Figge edited the chapters of my book on the early history of garden irises as I wrote them. She was editing a chapter of another book I am writing on Japanese irises her last week in the hospital. She is now off on a great new adventure, but how she will be missed! Her great generosity extended even to death. She donated her remains to medical research. *Adieu, notre mie, adieu.* ❧

In Memoriam: Elsiemae Nicholson


by Joyce Ragle, California (with assistance from Glenn Corlew, Marilyn Holloway and Abe Feuerstein)

Former Region 14 RVP Elsiemae Nicholson passed away in October of 2005. She was a retired Master Judge and her interest in irises began in the 1960s or earlier. She had interest in many aspects of gardening and at one time was California President of the National Gardening Club, involved in many facets such as flower arranging and landscaping. Glenn Corlew said she had a saying about landscaping, "It takes 15 years to develop a garden and 15 years to keep it under control".

She knew all the prominent judges and hybridizers in California, and living in Stockton she visited Ben Hager and Keith Keppel often. She, Keppel and Corlew would jointly tour the gardens each year of the many hybridizers in the Central Valley. When the Median Club (CAL-MADD) was organized by Hager in the 1960s, she was right there supporting this new venture. And she always was supportive of the AIS Youth members. There was a special bond between Glenn Corlew and Elsiemae: Glenn and Nell Corlew and Elsiemae and Nelson Nicholson shared a wedding anniversary date of June 12.

In 1968 Glenn introduced an iris named for her. ELSIEMAE NICHOLSON was a peach-pink tall bearded iris with a bright tangerine beard; it was awarded an HM in 1988. Elsiemae co-edited the Region 14 Bulletin with Joe Ghio for several years. She served as RVP from 1977-79 and proved to be a dedicated leader. Her goal was to visit every club in the region during her term. She was later a recipient in the 1980s of the Larry Gaulter Award for service to Region 14.

Since then, she became less active, but judged some shows and came to the Sacramento Iris Society on several occasions, once to give a program jointly with Abe Feuerstein. Abe provided her with transportation for these visits.

Feuerstein attended her funeral and had a little story about it. Abe knew a lady who was connected to a nearby winery. The winery features an iris on the label. This lady grows reblooming irises. On the day of the funeral the iris IMMORTALITY was blooming and the lady brought it along. It was lowered down on the casket with Elsiemae. I thought, "What a nice touch". We all owe a debt of gratitude to her for the good that she did. 

In Memoriam: *Calvin Henry Reuter*

(1929 – 2006)

by Gary White, Marjorie Jansen, and Carolyn Lingenfelter, Nebraska

We were saddened by the untimely death of our friend and irisarian, Calvin Reuter, who departed us in February, 2006, at the age of 76.

Cal was a lifelong resident of Cuming County, Nebraska, working and gardening in the rural countryside near the small towns of Wisner and Pilger in northeastern Nebraska. In October of 1950, Cal married Luetta Hasenkamp. A year later in October of 1951, he was drafted and served in the U.S. Army, and spent thirteen months in Korea as an anti-aircraft mechanic. In August of 1953, Cal returned to Nebraska and to the farm, working with his father. Cal and Luetta adopted and raised three children.

Cal served his local iris societies in a wide variety of capacities, and he was a very welcome member of many of the iris clubs in Region 21. This quiet, patient man was well known in iris circles, not only in Region 21, but throughout the country for his service to the American Iris Society and his thoughtful advice on any number of subjects. He served as Treasurer and as RVP of Region 21. At the time of his death, he was also serving on the Board of the AIS Foundation. Cal had also been a past President of the Tall Bearded Iris Society. He was deeply committed and worked hard for the betterment of every organization of which he was a member. Cal owned and operated Spruce Gardens near Wisner, Nebraska, for many years, maintaining a large collection of irises, especially tall bearded irises. In addition to all of his iris knowledge and work, he served on the board of his local township and on his local school board.

Cal was a Master Judge and traveled extensively throughout the central and northern plains judging iris shows and visiting gardens. He gave freely of his time in tutoring new judges, donating irises for local and regional sales and auctions, and promoting irises and helping iris people wherever he traveled. In 2004, Cal received Region 21's highest acknowledgement of appreciation, the Distinguished Service Award.

Cal was known far and wide for his good advice, his friendship, and his loyalty to his convictions and the American Iris Society. He was a

man with a ready smile and an infectious laugh that made him an easy person to know and talk to. Cal was a talented and dedicated irisarian, of quick wit and intellect, and possessed a refreshingly droll sense of humor. In a group, Cal was often quiet, but on a one-to-one basis, a conversation could be carried on very easily. With a little priming, you had access to a world of knowledge about many issues as well as iris. It will be these personal encounters that we will miss the most and that we most fondly remember. ❧

In Memoriam: *Marianne Schumacher* **(1938 – 2006)**

by Jim Morris, Missouri

Region 8 RVP Marianne Schumacher, age 67, passed away peacefully January 24, 2006 at Madison, Wisconsin, after her long fight with cancer. An AIS member since 1990 and a charter member of the Madison Area Iris Society, Marianne also had been a member of three other iris clubs in Wisconsin and Illinois and several AIS Sections. A detailed biography of her background was published in the April 2004 AIS *Bulletin*, No. 333, on pages 18–19.

She was preceded in death by her husband Donald H. Schumacher in 1995 and is survived by her seven children and eleven grandchildren. It is hoped that a good home will be found for some of the thousands of flowers from her rural two-acre location near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. ❧

In Memoriam

Arthur Blodgett (Wisconsin)
 Marie Cain (Nebraska)
 Thomas Carr (New Jersey)
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 Rosalie (Mrs. Frank) Figge (Maryland)
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AIS Foundation Donations

Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for the research of the genus iris, administration of scholarships and the support of the AIS Library through the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund. This research includes the taxonomy as well as the cause of diseases and their cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to the top researchers and educational institutions throughout the world.

January 2006 – June 2006

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To rent slide sets or to purchase CDs, contact:

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AIS Storefront

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Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. \$15.00
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Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check for \$5.00 to Median Iris Society (MIS). One set free per year to affiliates.

Pacific Coast Native: Contact Damon Hill, 4613 Maddock Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472-9768. Rental fee \$7.50 to SPCNI. 2 sets available, species or hybrids.

Rebloomers: Contact George Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; <info@suttoniris.com>. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Siberian Irises.

Species: Several sets available. Order from Mike Zuraw, 1 Pondview Drive, Bethel, CT 06801-1266; <mjzuraw@aol.com>. Check for \$10.00 to SIGNA.

Spurias: To order, contact Riley Probst, 418 N. Van Buren, Saint Louis, MO 63122; (314) 822-2485; <rprobst02@earthlink.net>. Check for \$10.00 to Spuria Iris Society.

AIS Bulletin Back Issues

two years or older; not all issues available

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AIS Bulletin Ad Rates

"Without advertising, a terrible thing happens...nothing!"

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: August 15 (October issue); November 15 (January issue), February 15 (April issue), May 15 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2½ inch wide.

\$44.00	1 15/16 inch
\$60.00	1 15/16 inch
\$80.00	2 15/16 inch

Display Advertising

Black & White:

\$45.00	1 inch	4¼ x 1
\$70.00	¼ page	4¾ x 1⅞ (wide), or 2½ x 3¾ (tall)
\$100.00	½ page	4¾ x 3¾ (wide), or 2½ x 7½ (tall)
\$175.00	Full page	4¾ x 7½

Color:

\$135.00	½ page, interior page.
\$225.00	Full page, interior page.
\$200.00 each	Full page, interior page, 4 consecutive issue discount.
\$350.00	Full page, inside back cover.
\$350.00	Full page, inside front cover.
\$450.00	Full page, outside back cover.

Please note new advertising rates, effective for the Bulletin of April, 2005. Contact George & Margaret Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; (559) 784-5107; <info@suttoniris.com>

Bulletin of the AIS Shopping Section

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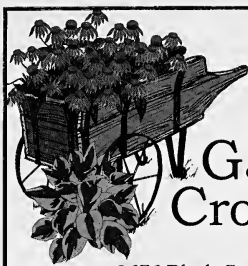
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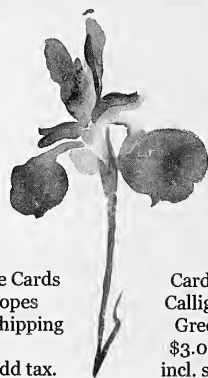
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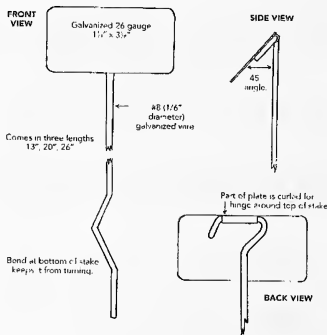


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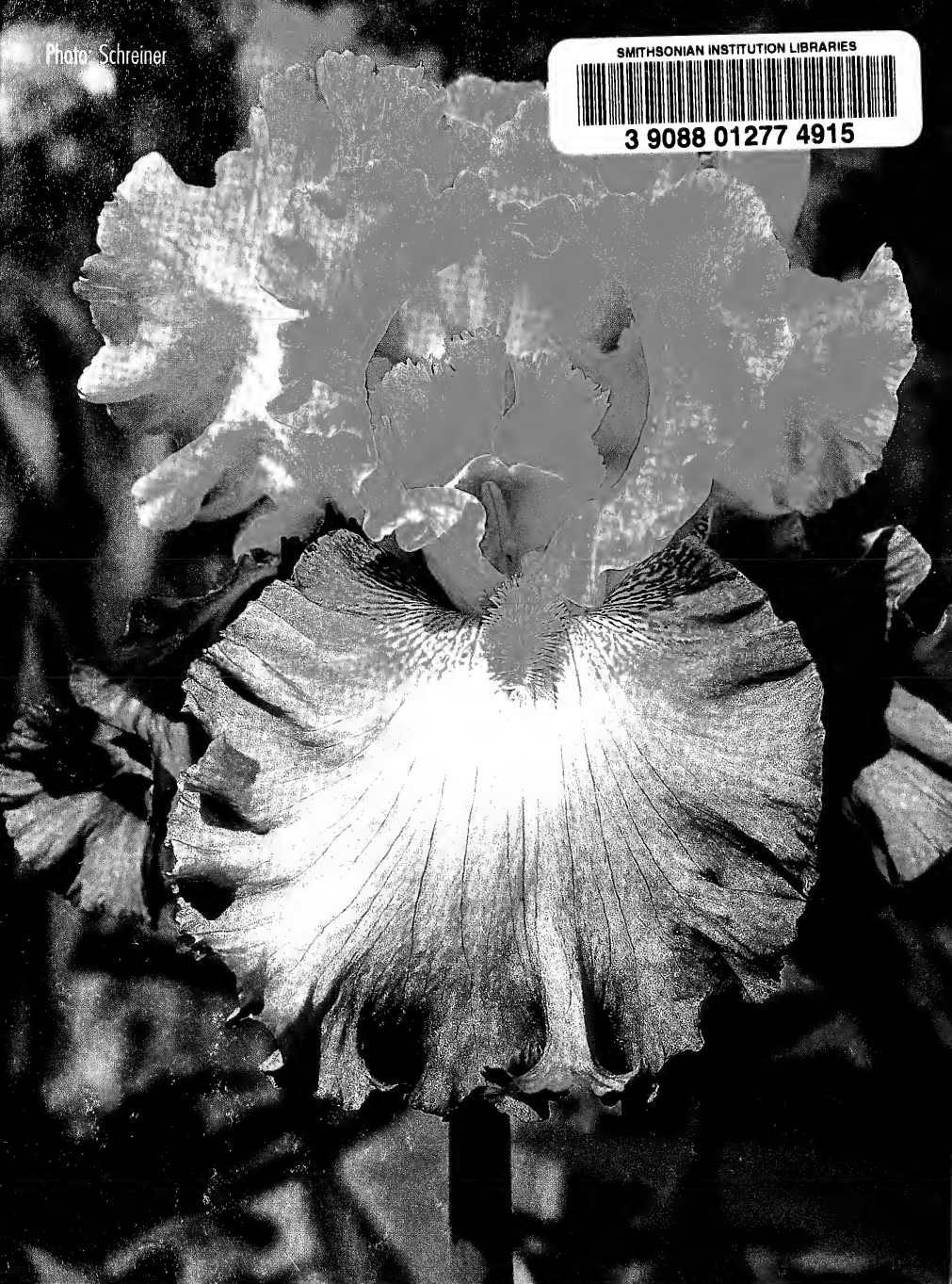
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AIS Bulletin

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The American Iris Society

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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President's Message

by Jeanne Clay Plank, California

A personal note about Keith McNames, the AIS Library, and Tracy Plotner:

At the Spring Board meeting in Portland, Keith McNames announced plans to move to Costa Rica and submitted his resignation as AIS Librarian. His retirement began in July. Keith served as AIS Librarian for more than nine years, taking over from Evelyn Jones when Evelyn's health failed.

When Keith took over, the AIS Library was still new and in the unpacking stage; a jumble of miscellaneous records, books, papers, photos, and iris artifacts gathered from hither and yon. After weeding out duplications and irrelevant items of all sorts, Keith organized, cataloged, and computerized the remaining material, integrated new material, and produced an archival library that could efficiently reference AIS records. Over the years he selected duplicate items from the Library's inventory, and with Board approval, offered these items to the annual AIS Silent Auction, earning thousands of dollars for Library support. Keith was consistently pleasant, patient, thorough, and always available to serve those seeking information from the Library.

Luckily for AIS, his replacement, Tracey Plotner, has already shown her ability to serve with the same high standards set by her predecessor.

Keith insists he will be returning annually for Spring conventions. Nonetheless he will be missed as part of "here-at-home-voices."

Bon Voyage, Keith – Welcome Tracy!



Jeanne Clay Plank

On another topic:

As an AIS member, you are aware that the Society has a web page, but have you ever visited the AIS website? (The website address, www.irises.org, is prominently printed on the AIS Bulletin

masthead.) If you have visited it, have you visited it more than once? – Often? – Recently?

Let me direct your thinking toward this important AIS service that provides many levels of information relevant alike to members, potential members, and non-members. A click of a computer mouse brings the latest AIS awards; contact information for AIS national, regional and local officers; the AIS calendar of events; the AIS board of directors minutes and business reports; the Storefront page with sale items; advice for growing various irises; instructions for registering irises and much, much more. Link buttons to AIS sections, regions, local affiliates, and international iris groups provide information on the activities of the larger iris community and illustrate the broad-based diversity of our organization. Wherever you are, with access to the Internet you have access to AIS information and services literally at your fingertips.

This summer's addition of a credit card connected "Join Online" button encourages interested parties to join or renew a membership using an online process and a credit card. The new button has been very successful in its short existence.

With no geographic boundaries and independent of land-mail services, the web page presents the AIS to a world well beyond the limitations of our other membership publications. From that perspective, an up-to-date, well-managed web page is arguably the most powerful resource the AIS has for reaching and recruiting new members and for retaining existing members. The website is an electronic publication, and like any publication it lives or dies on its ability to present an attractive package of accurate, timely information. John Jones (Electronic Services Chair) and Chris Hollinshead (AIS Webmaster) have worked hard to develop the AIS website and to sculpt it into a resource for irisarians, as well as a showcase for the American Iris Society.

The currency of a web page depends on information being provided to website editors in a timely manner. Web pages with out-of-date information are not uncommon in the electronic world. Consistently out-dated information can easily discourage members from revisiting an organization's web page, damage the organization's appeal to potential members, and blunt the interest of prime membership candidates. Local contacts remain one of the most potent sources for recruiting new members, providing up-to-date information to current members, and encouraging membership renewals. As an AIS member you are urged to make frequent visits to local web pages (region,

affiliate), and check out the information being offered. Up-to-date local web pages are important.

Should you find out-of-date information on any of the AIS websites, contact the page Webmaster, or the sponsoring organization. Failing that, contact your Regional Vice President; send an email to John I. Jones (jjones@usjoneses.com) and/or to me (Plankmail@aol.com). John and I are both seriously committed to the production of attractive, well-maintained, up-to-date web pages. 🌹

HC (High Commendation) Awards for 2006

The HC Award is restricted to non-introduced irises only. An iris may be registered and named, but must not have been introduced into commerce.

249 individual seedlings under number or name received 1 or more votes for the HC award. The 12 listed below received the minimum five (5) votes required.

TYPE	SEEDLING	ORIGINATOR	REGION	VOTES
TB	90-10B	Robert Annand	14	5
TB	9586A	Frank Foster	13	5
TB	727-3	Larry Lauer	14	5
TB	9395-30 AZ	Lynn Markham	1	7
BB	95-7D	Lynn Markham	1	6
MTB	138-8	Charles Bunnell	6	8
MTB	98-44A	Stephanie Markham	1	8
MTB	99-12C	Stephanie Markham	1	12
MTB	Z0133-1	Michael Zuraw	1	8
SIB	99K1B30	Robert Hollingworth	6	8
SPEC-X	96N316-1D	Lorena Reid	13	5
SPEC-X	00VL-24-2G	Lorena Reid	13	5

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Editor's Message

by **Bruce Filardi, Oregon**

First of all, let me start with my apologies for the tardiness of the July issue of the *Bulletin*. We have been making a serious effort to get each issue printed and mailed in a timely manner, but we were not successful in July. A very large part of the explanation is the fact that this year's National Convention took place here in Portland. Normally, I have to start work on the July issue around May 15th; this year, however, I was unable to get started until early June. Additional delays along the way played their parts. We hope, however, that you are receiving the October issue before October 15th, no matter where you live in the country (or in the world).

The July cover photo of Cook Cup winner SAILOR'S DREAM should have been credited to Rita & Tom Gormley. We had received several good photos of SAILOR'S DREAM from the Gormleys and Jim Morris, and once we made our final decision on which photo to use, we should have changed the "?????" on page 3 to the name of the photographer. A "thank you" to Rita, Tom, and Jim for their contributions.


I'd also like to express my appreciation to the writers (and photographers) of all the Convention garden reviews which appear in the current issue. Your work is appreciated! 



Photo: I. Golob

Bruce Filardi, looking serious, on the final day of judging in Florence, 2005. Note amended girth, due to just a week of Italian food.

Youth Views

by Cheryl Deaton, California

HAVE YOU HEARD?? There is a new GENERAL YOUTH FUND to which donations may be made for various youth projects. These funds are not restricted like the Clarke Cosgrove Fund or the Classroom Project Fund. So if you'd like to promote youth in iris, but don't know what to do, I suggest a donation to this new fund. We hope to be able to fund a variety of projects for our youth members, such as the recent t-shirt design contest. Support our youth and buy a t-shirt (\$15 plus \$2 shipping & handling, e-mail your order to <region15kids@hotmail.com>), sponsor a youth in your local club, mentor a scout troop, or just share your love of irises with a young person in your neighborhood.

A big 'Thank You'

I wish to publicly thank the members of the Hutchinson Iris Club of Region 18 who donated iris rhizomes from their recent Spring Meeting and sent them to ALL the youth members of AIS. I hear a special thank you should go out to Jill Eckhoff who took on the job of mailing all these rhizomes to the youth members. I am sure there are a lot of very happy young people out there. Thanks again!

Once again it is time to get in those nominations for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. Please nominate a youth member who has made a difference in your region, your club, or your outlook of the world. Rules for nomination are at the end of this column. Nominees do not have to engage in ALL the activities listed. Please take a moment to honor a deserving young person with your nomination.

The Ackerman Essay Contest

The American Iris Society Foundation annually sponsors an essay contest for youth members called the Ackerman Essay Contest. The Foundation is completely separate from the American Iris Society. The topic for the contest and the winners of the contest are chosen by Foundation members. The money awarded to the winners is also funded by the Foundation. The winning essays for this year's contest follow.

"What I Hope to See in My Iris Future"

by Rachael Thormann, Age 9

What I hope to see in my iris future is being a judge at iris shows. Or possibly a person who sets up garden tours and goes far and near just to see

them because they mean a lot to me. While I'm doing that I could just be myself having fun growing irises! Being only nine years old, I have realized how nice the adults are and how they can teach kids at just the right level so we can understand, and I would like to do this also when I am older.

I've accomplished many things over the last few years dealing with irises. Last year I won the Golden Trowel award for Oswego County and I'm working on the requirements for this year's contest. I've also won the Youth Division Artistic Sweepstakes in an iris show and I've done many Public Presentations through 4-H on gardening and irises. I own about a hundred irises and I hope to expand my iris garden some more. This summer I hope to identify most of the irises whose names I don't know. I'm also interested in learning more about how to clean them, and other types of iris care.

Someday I hope to share my knowledge with other people, and I hope they will learn to like irises as much as I do.

"What I See in My Iris Future"

by Grace Farley, age 15

What do I see in my iris future...? I love working in my garden and plan to have a big garden of my own when I am older. I want to landscape my backyard, and even design my own house. I'll need a huge backyard for all my flowerbeds!

I can see myself working with irises my whole life. It is a great hobby. My family gardens together now and I can see myself gardening with my children and grandchildren. I plan to garden when I retire, but that is a long time a way. I don't even have a job yet! I enjoy learning new things and seeing all the other gardens, blooms, and new varieties. The great thing is that there is always something new to learn. It is impossible to know it all. Each year will teach me something different. I love to go outside and look at the flowers. There are so many different irises. I may never even get the chance to see half of them, so it is always entertaining to look because you will almost always see something new.

I also have some hybridizing goals. One of my goals is to create a blue, white, and yellow iris. Those are my school colors. It will be quite a challenge because I would also like it to be variegated. I may graduate before I even figure it out, but those are my favorite colors anyway. I'm going to need a lot of luck to reach my goal. This was my first year of hybridizing. Eight of my crosses took this year!

I plan to help mentor younger members and teach them about gardening, just like the members of the Lincoln Iris Society are helping me learn the ins and outs of gardening. I will also show my friends a few things and even help them make a few crosses if they are interested. I

think learning is fun, and sharing what I learned is even better.

Making arrangements for shows is one of my favorite things to do because I get to use creativity to match the theme and bring different flowers together to make something beautiful. I love arranging flowers! At last year's shows I did very well. I love to see how everyone else interpreted the theme. I plan to continue to make arrangements in the years to come.

Even though I am just beginning my second year in the Iris Society, I know I want to work with flowers my whole life. I am excited to learn more from others and from each new experience. Gardening is a great hobby and I hope to share it with others in the years to come.

Congratulations to both Rachael and Grace.


Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Youth Achievement Award

Nominations for the award are the responsibility of the RVPs, Regional Youth Chairman and local club officers, but ANY AIS MEMBER may nominate any AIS youth member for the award.

The following list is only a guide. Youths do not need to be active in ALL of the above activities to be nominated or considered for the award. Nominations must be postmarked by January 31st each year to be considered for the award. E-mail nominations are acceptable.

- Grows a fine iris garden
- Actively hybridizes irises
- Writes for an iris publication
- Helps an iris organization through a committee or activity
- Visits iris gardens at bloom time
- Attends regional/national tours
- Is studying to be an AIS Judge
- Promotes irises and/or the AIS to others
- Signs up new AIS members
- Competes enthusiastically at shows
- Experiments with irises
- Shows an interest in various iris classes and sizes
- Demonstrates leadership skills

All nominations are confidential and become the property of AIS. Winners will be announced at the National Convention each year, and published in the AIS *Bulletin* and *The Iris Fan*. Judges will be selected at the discretion of the AIS Youth Chair.

Don't forget to check out the youth website at www.youth-iris.com and send in those nominations for the Clarke Cosgrove award. You'll be glad you did. Happy Irising! 

International News

Anna & David Cadd, Editors

caddsir@comcast.net

International Iris Competition in Germany at the Munich Botanical Garden

from Gisela Dathe, Wiesbaden

The Tall Bearded Iris Competition is held annually at the Munich Botanical Garden. Hybridizers from all over the world are invited to submit rhizomes for consideration. For further information, please contact Gisela Dathe, Tannenring 57, D-65207 Wiesbaden, Germany.

All TBs and SDBs are judged the first and second year after planting. There are separate awards for German Hybridizers and International Hybridizers. The winners of the first year of judging receive certificates and silver medals. After the second year of judging, the winners (with the combined score for two years of judging) receive certificates and gold medals.

Tall Bearded Awards for 2005/2006:

Irises from Members of the GdS (German Iris Society):

- 1st: German Iris Society Gold Medal: BARBARA MUELLER (Manfred Beer)
- 2nd: German Iris Society Silver Medal: FRUEHLINGSSONNE (Bernhard Lesche)
- 3rd: German Iris Society Bronze Medal: NACHTBLAU (Gina Guehrn)

Irises from International Hybridizers:

- 1st: Gold Medal: SERGEANT PRESTON (Chuck Chapman, Canada)
- 2nd: Silver Medal: LACY MODELING (Ladislav Muska, Slovakia)
- 3rd: Bronze Medal: DANUBE WAVES (Anton Mego, Slovakia)

TB Irises, first year:

- 1st: Seedling MB 13/94 A (Manfred Beer, Germany)
- 2nd: VIOLET BALLERINA (Anna & David Cadd, USA)
- 3rd: Seedling AM 99-340 (Anton Mego, Slovakia)

SDB Awards for 2005/2006:

- 1st: CRYSTAL CARPET (Chuck Chapman, Canada)
- 2nd: LARRIKIN (Barry Blyth, Australia)
- 3rd: PAUSE (Barry Blyth, Australia)

SDBs, first year:

- 1st: Seedling 230/2 (Frank Kathe)

News from France

from Chantal Sulmont

The French Iris and Bulbous Plant Society (S.F.I.B.) is organizing in technical partnership with TECOMAH, the School of Environment and Life Enhancement (technical and commercial school of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris), an International Tall Bearded Iris competition in France to take place in May of 2007 in Jouy-en-Josas, entitled: FRANCIRIS 2007.

The irises in competition were sent to TECOMAH between September 1 - 30, 2005, for the northern hemisphere, and in February 2006 for the southern hemisphere. No competitor was allowed to send more than six varieties and the varieties must not have been registered or introduced more than 10 years before the date of entry in competition. All FRANCIRIS 2007 awards will be awarded by 5 international judges, and the irises will be judged in May of 2007.

As of Spring, 2006, from 246 irises planted only 10 had died during the winter. The rest were still going through the acclimatization process, but they were looking good and blooming.

For additional information, contact Chantal Sulmont at chantalsulmont@wanadoo.fr

Russian Iris Society News

from Sergey Loktev, President

The Russian Iris Society conducted in Moscow the 11th International Competition of Tall Bearded Iris Varieties. The 2006 competition winners are:

- 1st: LESTNITSA V NEBO (S. Loktev '05)
- 2nd: LIGHT AND SHADOW (P. Black '03)
- 3rd: HIGH CLASS (P. Black '03)

The Russian Iris Society Convention was held in Moscow on June 10-11, 2006. The Russian Iris Society has grown to 157 individual members. As usual, the convention participants voted the Popularity Pool on performance in the Convention Gardens. The Results were:

- 1st: FANCY WOMAN (Keppel '95) and VANITY (Hager '75)

- 3rd: COPATONIC (Blyth '94) and HELLO DARKNESS (Schreiner '92)
- 5th: CHARM CITY CHOICE (Niswonger '92), RAINBOW TOUR (Black '90), and PIATIORKA (Gavrilin '05)

Ukrainian Iris Society News

from Oleg Amekhin, President

Members of the Ukrainian Iris Society recently conducted a Popularity Poll, and the results are:

- 1st: BATIK (Ensminger '85) and BEFORE THE STORM (Innerst '88)
- 3rd: BEVERLY SILLS (Hager '78), COPATONIC (Blyth '94), OLYMPIC CHALLENGE (Schreiner '85), SLOWIANSKI BAZAR (Ukrainian variety by Nina Miroshniczenko), and STEPPING OUT (Schreiner '64).

British Iris Society News

On Saturday, September 9, 2006, the British Iris Society will hold the Annual General Meeting. As the Guest Speaker, Mr. Clive Russell was invited to talk about "Reigning Iris". Presentation of trophies, and tea and cake are also in the schedule.

Clive Russell is a long-standing member of BIS, who has served the Society in a variety of functions and currently is the Newsletter Editor. He also recently established an iris nursery at Dorset. His interest in Space-Age bearded irises has led to his ambition to establish a national collection of these irises. He also promotes different types of irises, such as Siberians and Spurias.

The 85th Anniversary of the British Iris Society will be celebrated in 2007, and the Iris Convention marking the occasion will be held in Canterbury, in the County of Kent. The Convention will start Friday evening, May 25, 2007, and will end Monday morning, May 28. Arrangements include visits to three Guests Gardens featuring over 550 modern Bearded and Beardless irises grown specially for the occasion, English and overseas varieties.

The Guest gardens are: Sutton Valence Allotment, Iris of Sissinghurst, and Great Comp Gardens, as well as Sissinghurst Castle National Trust Garden. You will also be able to enjoy historic Canterbury on Sunday morning and participate in the optional Candlelight Tour at Canterbury Cathedral (at extra cost of £16.00, advance notification needed).

The registration fee is £140.00 per person and includes:


- Friday evening buffet and lectures in the International Study centre auditorium
- Coach travel on Saturday and Sunday
- Entry to four gardens mentioned above
- Lunches on Saturday and Sunday
- Evening meal on Saturday and Farewell Dinner on Sunday.

Accommodation is not included. To book accommodation with breakfast contact: Stephen Cresswell, Medway Leisure Travel, Brecon House, 16 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5DZ, England. E-mail: leisure@medwaytravel.co.uk Or website: www.medwaytravel.co.uk

Further details can be viewed by visiting www.kentiris.org.uk or www.britisshirissociety.com

To register contact the websites or contact: Berney Baughen, Cooper Beeches, North End Lane, Downe, Orpington, Kent BR6 7HG, England; tel: 01689 853646

Australian Iris Society News


The Inland Region Iris Society will be hosting the 2007 Australian Iris Convention at the border towns of Yarrawonga and Mulwala between 20 and 26 October 2007. Full details can be obtained by e-mailing Delma Birthisel at delmab@austarnet.com.au, or by letter to: Delma Birthisel, 15 Woods Road, Yarrawonga, Victoria 3730, Australia. 

AIS Insurance

by Michelle Snyder, Insurance Chair

For those of you who do not already know, our Liability Insurance is now with a new insurance company. If Certificates of Insurance are needed, I have made it much easier to obtain the needed documents.

To obtain Certificates of Insurance go to www.irises.org/insurance.htm and click on the text Request for Certificates of Insurance. Download the form, complete it as necessary, and fax it to the number shown.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either (818) 352-7018, or my email address of sammygiz@aol.com. 

AIS Calendar

National Conventions

2007: April 30 – May 5

Oklahoma City, OK

Chair:

F. W. McVicker

Route 3 – Box 10-K

Kingfisher, OK 73750

(405) 375-3115

fwm3115@peoplepc.com

Headquarters:

Oklahoma City Marriott

3233 Northwest Expressway

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

(405) 842-6633

2008: April 14-19

Austin, TX

Chairs:

Jim Landers

710 North 11th

Temple, TX 76501-3016

(254) 773-5017

jimlanders43@hotmail.com

and:

Pat Byrne

(281) 391-6190

patb1@consolidated.net

Headquarters:

Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark

4140 Governor's Row

Austin, TX 78744

(512) 383-2621

2009: May 11-16

Kansas City, MO

Chair:

Debora Hughes

3395 Utah Road

Wellsville, KS 66092

(785) 883-4737

dhughes936@myvine.com

Headquarters:

Doubletree Hotel Overland Park

10100 College Boulevard

Overland Park, KS 66210

(913) 451-6100

Fall Board Meetings

2006: November 3-5

Kansas City, MO

Chair:

Judy Keisling

12119 A Highway

Liberty, MO 64068

(816) 792-1848

keisling@swbell.net

Headquarters:

Four Points by Sheraton

11832 NW Plaza Circle

Kansas City, MO 64153

(816) 464-2345

2007: Oct 31 – Nov 2
Raleigh-Durham, NC

2008: Oct 31 – Nov 2nd
Tulsa, OK

Chair:

Susan Grigg
105 Trotters Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 870-8345
smgrigg@bellsouth.net

Chair:

Paul W. Gossett
129 East 33rd Place
Tulsa, OK 74105-2542
(918) 742-1204
pwgossett@juno.com 

Headquarters:

Hilton Raleigh-Durham
4810 Page Road
RTP, NC 27709
(919) 941-6000

AIS Library Update

by Tracy Plotner, Oregon

Are you aware that the American Iris Society has a library located in Silverton, Oregon? This is not a conventional library that you can walk in and visit at any time; it is a resource library. In our library there is much printed matter regarding the American Iris Society, its hybridizers, the individual regions and sections of AIS, and of course the iris itself.

It is very important that you copy the library on club newsletters, regional bulletins, convention booklets, or anything else that might be of future use to someone gathering information. These materials are catalogued and filed in the library. If you are an editor, please send two (2) printed copies of your newsletter to the AIS Library.

Please think about the library when you are through with old *Bulletins*, books, or other materials of interest. The library is in need of some of the earliest issues of the *AIS Bulletin*.

This is a legacy that we leave to future generations of irisarians. If you need information detailing past articles or materials concerning the iris, contact Tracy Plotner, the new AIS Librarian by email at aislibrary@molalla.net or snail mail at PO Box 250, Molalla, OR 97038-0250.

Questions & Anthers

Q: I was looking at the pedigree of a new seedling and in checking out one of the parents I noticed it was categorized as a *Neglecta*. What does this categorization refer to?

A: from Clarence Mahan, *Virginia*:

The following is a quote from *Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them*, a history of garden irises. Krieger Publishing Company is preparing the book for publication later this year.

"One of Peter Barr's lasting contributions to the world of garden irises was the gift of a special vocabulary. Garden writer and iris hybridizer Sydney B. Mitchell explained how this came about in his book *Iris for Every Garden*:

About 1873 Barr issued a descriptive list of his extensive collection [of irises], arranging the varieties in groups: aphylla (including forms of germanica), amoena (white standards and purple falls), neglecta (lavender standards and dark falls), pallida (lavender, light and dark blue, and rosy-toned purple self), squalens (forms with blended, often rather dull, combinations of smoky blue and gray or yellow and red), and variegata (clear yellow standards and falls either veined a dark red or nearly solid ox-blood color). Barr's classification was adopted and continued in English and American lists into the nineteen-twenties. Even to this day such terms as "amoena" and "variegata" are applied to modern hybrids of these old color patterns."

"The terms "amoena," "neglecta" and "variegata" continue to be used by those who write and talk about irises in the 21st century. These words refer to the color patterns described by Barr and form an enduring element of iris argot. It is, after all, easier to say than an iris cultivar is a "neglecta" than to say that it is a violet or purple iris with standards that are lighter in color than its falls."

Q: In your opinion, could a long, cold winter (and continuing cool spring) explain why certain plants, that ought to have more branching and buds than they do this year, aren't performing as well as usual?

A: from Terry Aitken, *Washington State*:

Why do some plants have good buds and branching one year and not the next? I will offer a theory subject to other thoughts. The issue is – "when does bud formation occur?"

My sense of bud growth is that the buds are formed during the previous summer. When side sprouts develop on the sides of new rhizomes in late summer, I consider the rhizome to be “bloom size”. I suspect that bud formation is under way within the rhizome during August, whether it exists in an embryonic state or fully developed might be an issue. During early spring growth, the buds are subjected to frost. They usually seem frost-resistant up to the point that the flower actually opens.

This past spring, we noticed that some varieties did not bloom at all. I would theorize that they were varieties that were “early starters” and their buds were frozen out, probably with our February freezes. Other “late starting varieties” put up stems that were unaffected by the freezes.


Q: I started hybridizing recently. I read on iris-talk a year or two ago that pink irises can only come from crosses where both parents are pink. But I recently saw that a new hybridizer has registered a pink which has CONJURATION as one of its parents. Is this an error?

A: from Don Spoon, Virginia

If an iris like CONJURATION has tangerine beards, then it must also carry four doses of the recessive allele (tttt, homozygous recessive) at the tangerine locus and may produce pink-petaled cultivars, also (tttt) if crossed with them. If there is even one dominant allele (Tttt) then no lycopene is produced, and only yellow carotene is produced. Most commonly, for an iris to be white, yellow, pink, or orange it must have at least one dose (Iiii) of the dominant anthocyanin inhibitor allele designated as (I). If the pink iris crossed on CONJURATION has four dominant (IIII) alleles (homozygous dominant), then all seedlings will lack CONJURATION's dominant amoena EMMA COOK anthocyanin pattern, a variant of the (Is) gene that has a separate locus from the (I) gene. The dominant (I) gene does not completely prevent anthocyanin pattern expression at the base of the petals like the less commonly seen recessive glaciata allele at the plicata locus. [These glaciatas used to be called ices. If you crossed a pink glaciata on a pink produced by just one dominant (I) gene then you would have many seedlings expressing their suppressed anthocyanin patterns. So crossing a pink on a pink may not produce pinks!]

It is important to understand that recessive means there is a dominant wild type allele that if present will prevent the expression of the traits of recessive alleles, such as tangerine colored lycopene pigment (tttt) as opposed to yellow carotene pigment (Tttt). Since there are four pairs of chromosomes in tetraploid cultivars there can be up to three different unexpressed alleles with one dominant allele preventing their expression (A

a1 a2 a3). The traits of the recessive alleles (a1, a2, and a3) are hidden from expression by the dominant allele trait (A). For example, I obtained the pink-petaled, tangerine bearded BB MIDSUMMER'S EVE from the cross of IMMORTALITY (white with yellow beards) on ENCHANTED WORLD (pink-petaled with tangerine beards). From test crosses and studies of pedigrees I know that one of the parents of IMMORTALITY, I DO carried no recessive (t) alleles while the other parent ENGLISH COTTAGE carries two hidden recessive alleles (TTtt) as does IMMORTALITY. Betty Wilkerson crossed pink-petaled tangerine bearded cultivars on IMMORTALITY and obtained cultivars with orange (lycopene expressed) at the base of the beards. This minute expression of tangerine in the beards only deep in the throat showed the genotype was (tttt) for these seedlings. Similarly, I noted that my bishop purple luminata DAUGHTER OF STARS has orange coloration at the base of its beards. Crossing D.O.S. on variegated cultivars with tangerine beards, I obtained variegated (broken color) seedlings with tangerine beards. This shows that D.O.S. has the genotype (tttt) and the right cross with pink-petaled cultivars with tangerine beards could produce pink-petaled, tangerine-bearded offspring. A cultivar with even the slightest orange at the base of the beards most likely has the genotype (tttt) for the tangerine locus.

Possibly, there are separate genes for lycopene expression in the beards (tb) and the petals (tp), rather than a single gene (t). In my recent paper in the *AIS Bulletin* on spectrum red iris I proposed the hypothesis that might resolve this issue. In the wild, the best strategy is to have a white or pastel flower with an intense red beard leading to the nectaries, analogous to a white house with a red door. To accomplish this, I proposed that there are two different modifier genes with dosage effects that modify the expression of the single tangerine gene, one for its expression in the petal epidermis and a different one for its expression in the beard hair epidermis. The modifier gene for the petals has a dominant allele that when homozygous or four doses produces a white with no lycopene expression, yet with four doses of recessive can only be deep pastel pink in the petals. (Other modifier genes with dosage effects must be found to intensify the lycopene throughout the petals to a red-orange color as in the beards.) I propose that the modifier gene for expression of lycopene in the beards is the reverse situation. Four doses of dominant allele produces the deepest intensity of red-orange lycopene expression in the beard hair epidermis. Four doses of the recessive allele of this beard modifier gene for tangerine expression produces pale pastel pink beards. Four doses of recessive, may under the right conditions, produce a pink-petaled cultivar with a white beard, but to my knowledge it has yet to be obtained. 

Section Happenings

by Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant

Having just completed two weeks of digging and selling irises in public venues, I am reminded once again of the marvelous diversity of our favorite flower. And when you are required to answer hundreds of questions about iris culture, you truly gain an appreciation for the toughness and hardiness of irises, whether grown in conditions of high humidity and rains of the middle west, the strong winds of Oklahoma or the heat and droughts of wherever.

There is a true need and desire for reliable information about irises by the general public. Written material is always needed but personal contact by our iris experts is vital to a better understanding of irises in general and the different classifications specifically. I have given iris programs this year to 15 different garden groups of differing levels of knowledge and sophistication. Topics have ranged from arils/arilbreds to Siberians to spurias. The various Sections of AIS have provided good basic material from membership applications to checklists. I encourage all who have good knowledge of irises to be ambassadors for AIS and by extension the various Sections and Cooperating Societies.

Section News of Interest

The cyberspace (or cleverly labeled Siberspace by SSI) revolution of the last ten years has been a boon to the various Sections as they have developed websites and disseminated promotional and educational material to their members and the general public. If you spend a little time surfing their sites you will be amazed at both the quantity of overall material and the quality of varietal pictures now available.

SSI members this year have had interesting discussions about spraying for weed control and the resulting effects of Roundup, Snapshot, Treflan, Poast, Manage, Select and Lontrel. See the Spring 2006 issue of *The Siberian Iris* for a printed version.

Discussion continues (SJI's *The Review*, Spring 2006) regarding the "decline" problem of Japanese Irises when grown for a sustained time period of 3-5 years in the same "tired" soil. Sharon Whitney of Harpswell, ME, reports on her planned systematic experiment on this subject.

A nice review of common mulching materials, with a focus on bearded irises, is presented by Kelly Norris and Nancy Szmuriga in the


July 2006 issue of the Dwarf Iris Society *Newsletter*.

The *Fleur de Lis* debuted in the Spring 2006 as the new name of the journal of the Society for Louisiana Irises. This first issue (Number 203) under a new name has a good editorial by Tom Dillard on the alleged declining interest in gardening by our so-called baby boomers. Dillard has an excellent book review of the lavishly illustrated *Iris Species and Cultivars in the World* published in the Japanese language by the Japan Iris Society, 2005. I have seen this spectacular guidebook and agree that it is American gardener friendly due to the dual English and Japanese image labeling.

The Median Iris Society's *The Medianite*, Spring 2006 contains an article by Robert Plank, AIS Attorney for Tax Exempt Matters, on *What Iris Expenses Can You Deduct?* The opening paragraph states: "The AIS, most of the AIS Sections ... cooperating societies, and regions, the TBIS, and a growing number of the affiliates are recognized by the IRS as a 'qualified organization.'" This means that contributions by individuals who itemize tax deductions on Schedule A (Form 1040) are tax deductible on the donor's state and federal income tax returns. A straightforward narrative follows on guidelines and required record keeping.

If you have suggestions or comments about the content of this column, please email me at <morrisje1@aol.com>. I would love to hear from you as I attempt to make this column interesting and useful.

Future Section Conventions

Society for Louisiana Irises, April 13-15, 2007, Lafayette, LA
 Median Iris Society, "Prairie Gold", May 6-7, 2007, Lincoln, NE
 Society for Japanese Irises, June 2008, Kalamazoo, MI
 Siberian/Species, June 2009, Twin Cities Area, MN 

***Irises, 2007* 12" x 12" Calendar**

Now available from Turner Publishing Company.

Go to www.americanirissocietycalendar.com to order. Single copy price is \$12.95 plus shipping. AIS affiliate clubs may order calendars from Turner Publishing Company in lots of 10 at a 40% discount (\$7.75 each, plus shipping and handling).

Call 1-800-788-3350 before October 1st to order.

[Please note that this is not the same as the AIS 2007 Calendar, which is advertised on the inside front cover of this issue.]

AIS Awards 2006

*Number of votes listed first

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

(Total votes cast = 492)

79 SEA POWER (Keith Keppel)

Runners-up:

50 STARWOMAN IB (Marky D. Smith)

45 TOM JOHNSON (Paul Black)

JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL (TB)

(Total votes cast = 1330)

108 QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Frederick Kerr)

103 GOLDEN PANTHER (Richard Tasco)

95 HAPPENSTANCE (Keith Keppel)

Runners-up:

69 STARRING (Joseph Ghio)

42 RING AROUND ROSIE (Richard Ernst)

41 MILLENNIUM FALCON (Brad Kasperek)

KNOWLTON MEDAL (BB)

(Total votes cast = 297)

88 ANACONDA LOVE (Brad Kasperek)

Runners-up:

79 CLASSIC NAVY (Carol Lankow)

69 TEAPOT TEMPEST (Lynn Markham)

HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL (IB)

(Total votes cast = 324)

122 MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

(Lowell Baumunk)

Runners-up:

74 MING (Marky D. Smith)

71 BLACKCURRANT (Marky D. Smith)

WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL (MTB)

(Total votes cast = 311)

84 BAUBLES AND BEADS (Lynda Miller)

Runners-up:

75 WISTFUL WISTERIA (Opal Wulf)

64 YELLOW FLIRT (Kenneth Fisher)

COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

(Total votes cast = 315)

54 RUBY ERUPTION (Chuck Chapman)

Runner-up:

44 FOREVER BLUE (Chuck Chapman)

CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL (MDB)

(Total votes cast = 207)

64 AFRICAN WINE (Brad Kasperek)

Runners-up:

54 TINGLE (Paul Black)

47 YAK ATTACK (Brad Kasperek)

CLARENCE G. WHITE MEDAL (AR & AB)

(Pure aril and arilbred irises of 1/2 or more aril content)

(Total votes cast = 142)

82 OMAR'S STITCHERY (Carl Boswell)

Runner-up:

38 OMAR'S EYE (Carl Boswell)

WILLIAM MOHR MEDAL (AB) (Arilbred irises of 1/4 but less than 1/2 aril content)

(Total votes cast = 128)

57 WALKER ROSS (Walker Ross by Chuck Chapman)

Runner-up:

43 HAKUNA MATATA (A. & D. Cadd)

FOUNDERS OF SIGMA MEDAL (SPEC)

(Total votes cast = 142)

39 JOHN WOOD (John Wood by Everette Lineberger)

Runners-up:

32 BAYOU BANDIT (Jeff Weeks)

26 SYLVANSHINE (Clarence Mahan & Carol Warner)

RANDOLPH-PERRY MEDAL (SPEC-X)

No Award in 2006

SYDNEY B. MITCHELL MEDAL (CA)*(Total votes cast = 53)*

13 COZUMEL (Joseph Ghio)

Runner-up:

10 AIR SHOW (Lois Belardi)

DEBAILLON MEDAL (IA)*(Total votes cast = 143)*

39 PEACHES IN WINE (Heather Pryor)

Runners-up:

32 RICH JEWEL (Richard Morgan)

21 JAZZ HOT (Heather Pryor)

21 WHISTLING DIXIE (Mary Dunn by Joseph Ghio)

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL (SIB)*(Total votes cast = 302)*

108 RIVERDANCE (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

Runners-up:

93 SHIPS ARE SAILING (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

56 SOMEBODY LOVES ME (Robert Hollingworth)

ERIC NIES MEDAL (SPU)*(Total votes cast = 182)*

61 ADRIATIC BLUE (O.D. Niswonger)

Runners-up:

52 WYOMING COWBOYS (Floyd Wickenkamp)

38 MISSOURI ORANGE (O.D. Niswonger)

PAYNE MEDAL (JI)*(Total votes cast = 116)*

37 SING THE BLUES (Lorena Reid)

Runners-up:

26 GEISHA DOLL (Ed Matheny III)

19 FOREIGN INTRIGUE (Robert Bauer & John Coble)

WALTHER CUP*(Most HM votes in any category)*

135 DECADENCE TB (Barry Blyth)

Runners-up:

111 HERE BE DRAGONS SIB (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

110 OREO TB (Keith Keppel)

102 TOUR DE FRANCE TB (Keith Keppel)

Award of Merit**TALL BEARDED**

95 KITTY KAY (Keith Keppel)

92 GOT MILK (J. T. Aitken)

88 WINTRY SKY (Keith Keppel)

65 CHARLESTON (Keith Keppel)

61 OPPOSING FORCES (Keith Keppel)

61 SECRET SERVICE (Keith Keppel)

55 AMARILLO FRILLS (Ben Hager by Cooley's Gardens)

54 CARNIVAL RIDE (Richard Ernst)

54 HOOK (Tom Johnson)

52 OBSIDIAN (Marky D. Smith)

51 MATT McNAMES (D. Meek)

50 BROADBAND (Richard Tasco)

50 KINKAJOU SHREW (Brad Kasperek)

49 REVERE (Joseph Ghio)

48 AWESOME BLOSSOM (Paul Black)

48 BEL ESPRIT (Keith Keppel)

47 BALDERDASH (Keith Keppel)

46 BOLD VISION (Frederick Kerr)

46 CRYSTAL GAZER (Keith Keppel)

45 AMIABLE (Joseph Ghio)

45 ANNOUNCEMENT (Paul Black)

45 JERSEY BOUNCE (Keith Keppel)

Runners-up:

44 LADY OF LEONESS (Donald Spoon)

44 SPICE LORD (Barry Blyth)

43 MIAH JANE (Tom Parkhill)

43 SOTTO VOCE (Ben Hager by Cooley's Gardens)

BORDER BEARDED

69 BORDER CONTROL (Tom Johnson)

52 BERMUDA TRIANGLE (A. & D. Cadd)

Runners-up:

48 MAUI DAWN (J. T. Aitken)

47 HEART OF AFRICA (Brad Kasperek)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

74 CONCERTINA (George Sutton)

73 DEVIL MAY CARE (Paul Black)

67 RUBY SLIPPERS (Keith Keppel)

Runners-up:

- 57 BOLD STATEMENT (Richard Tasco)
 53 JUMP START (Keith Keppel)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

- 115 MASLON (Donald Spoon)
 88 THAT'S RED (Kenneth Fisher)

Runners-up:

- 56 PUG (Eugene Kalkwarf)
 52 CONNECT THE DOTS (Lynda Miller)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

- 189 CAT'S EYE (Paul Black)
 134 PUDDY TAT (Paul Black)
 41 TRUE NAVY (Bennett Jones)
 33 CIRCUS DRAGON (Bennett Jones)
 32 WIZARD'S RETURN (Richard Tasco)

Runners-up:

- 31 ARTFUL (Paul Black)
 30 DANCING BUNNIES (Paul Black)

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

- 66 TINY TITAN (J. T. Aitken)
 49 PIXIE KISSES (A. & D. Willott)

Runners-up:

- 39 CORAL CARPET (Chuck Chapman)
 39 CROWN OF SNOW (A. & D. Willott)

ARILBRED (Arilbred irises of 1/4 but less than 1/2 aril content)

- 30 SHABAZA (George Sutton)
 15 RETURN TO AGA (Robert Annand)

Runner-up:

- 10 FLAMBOYANT AFFAIR (Sharon McAllister)

ARIL AND ARILBRED (Pure aril and arilbred irises of 1/2 or more aril content)

- 41 SPIRIT OF CALEB (Peter McGrath)
 32 KALIFA'S FORTUNE (Robert Annand)

Runner-up:

- 31 PINK SERAPH (Howard & Irene Shockey)

SPECIES

- 90 KRILL (Jill Copeland)
 57 PETIT LION (Lowell Baumunk)

Runner-up:

- 43 VERSICLE (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

INTER-SPECIES CROSS

- 52 LITTLE CAILLET (Ken Durio)
 52 STITCH WITCHERY (Lorena Reid)

Runners-up:

- 45 WILD PETTICOATS (Lynn Markham)
 36 UNDERSTATED (Lynn Markham)

CALIFORNICA

- 17 WINE AND CHEESE (Vernon Wood)
 15 SANTA ROSALITA (Joseph Ghio)

Runners-up:

- 11 CIAO (Joseph Ghio)
 11 DRIP DROP (Joseph Ghio)
 11 MOCHA MELODY (Alphild Lind)

LOUISIANA

- 25 GREAT WHITE HOPE (Dorman Haymon)
 25 NIGHT THUNDER (Richard Morgan)

Runners-up:

- 24 RASPBERRY RILLA (Rilla Hickerson)
 22 HUSH MONEY (Mary Dunn by Joseph Ghio)

SIBERIAN

- 60 SALAMANDER CROSSING
 (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)
 53 BUTTER AND CREAM (Currier McEwen)

Runners-up:

- 48 LAVENDER FAIR
 (Robert Hollingworth)
 47 BANISH MISFORTUNE
 (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

SPURIA

- 43 HICKORY LEAVES (O. D. Niswonger)
 43 MISSOURI DREAMLAND
 (O. D. Niswonger)

Runners-up:

- 42 BUTTER RIPPLES
 (B. Charles Jenkins)
 27 LACED SUNSHINE (D. L. Shepard)

JAPANESE

- 36 DIRIGO RED ROCKET (John White)
 32 RIVULETS OF WINE (J. T. Aitken)

Runners-up:

- 24 PINKERTON
 (Robert Bauer & John Coble)

20 BLUSHING SNOWMAIDEN
(Chad Harris)

Honorable Mention

TALL BEARDED

135 DECADENCE (Barry Blyth)
110 OREO (Keith Keppel)
102 TOUR DE FRANCE (Keith Keppel)
91 ADOREGON (Keith Keppel)
89 CELESTIAL EXPLOSION (Richard Tasco)
77 QUEEN'S CONSORT (Frederick Kerr)
66 OKAPI POPPY (Brad Kasperek)
64 EXPOSÉ (Joseph Ghio)
57 IN LOVE AGAIN (Keith Keppel)
48 BOLD EXPRESSION (Richard Ernst)
47 BRUSSELS (Tom Johnson)
46 MYTHOLOGY (Tom Johnson)
45 CAN'T TOUCH THIS (Schreiner)
45 DANGEROUS MOOD (Schreiner)
44 UNDERCURRENT (Keith Keppel)
42 BEWITCHMENT (Joseph Ghio)
40 TIME ZONE (Joseph Ghio)
39 MYSTERIOUS WAYS (Keith Keppel)
38 DIAMOND BRACELET (Schreiner)
37 NEW DAY DAWNING (Joseph Ghio)
33 DELICIOUSLY DIFFERENT (J.T. Aitken)
33 DOODADS (Paul Black)
33 GOLLY GEE WHIZ (Tom Burseen)
33 IN LIVING COLOR (Paul Black)
32 HIGH CLASS (Paul Black)
32 TREASURED (Joseph Ghio)
31 BLACKBERRY TEASE (Tom Johnson)
31 ENGLISH STYLE (O. D. Niswonger)
31 INDIAN SUNRISE (Larry Lauer)
31 SECONDHAND ROSE (Ginny Spoon)
30 MUSICIAN (Keith Keppel)
30 SUNBLAZE (Keith Keppel)
29 BROKEN PATTERN (Paul Black)
29 EVENING DRAMA (Paul Black)
29 INTIMIDATOR (Paul Black)
29 IRISH GOLD (Larry Lauer)
29 JUMPIN JACK FLASH (John Painter)
29 MANHATTAN HATTIE (James Begley)
29 MOUNTAIN VIEW (Paul Black)
29 PORCELAIN ANGEL (Schreiner)
29 RASPBERRY SORBET (Jim Hedgecock)
28 BLUEBERRY BLISS (Schreiner)

28 BRIDE'S BLUSH (Michael Sutton)
28 BRONZE PEACOCK (J.T. Aitken)
28 PICCADILLY CIRCUS (George Sutton)
28 SHORE PATROL (Walter Moores)
28 WARRANTY (Tom Johnson)
27 BLONDE MADONNA (A. & D. Cadd)
27 CODI'S ANGEL FACE (Schreiner)
27 FREEDOM SONG (Schreiner)
26 AIRFORCE ONE (George Sutton)
26 CRIMSON LIGHTS (Barbara Nicodemus)
26 DON'T TOUCH (Paul Black)
26 INCA ROSE (Oscar Schick)
26 PASSION FOR PINK (Richard Ernst)
26 SILVER SKATES (Ed Roberts)
25 FROSTED ROSE (George Sutton)
25 LADY LAREE (Ann Barrows)
24 FLORENCE DAYTON (Ron de la Motte)
24 INTROSPECTION (Lowell Baumunk)
24 PERFECT STORM (Jim Hedgecock)
24 PURPLE PEOPLE EATER (A. & D. Cadd)
24 RITZY (Ben Hager by Cooley's Gardens)
24 TAHITIAN PEARL (Larry Johnson)
24 TOO BELOW ZERO (David Miller)
23 DANIELLE'S LOVE (Joyce Ragle)
23 ELIMINATOR (Jim Hedgecock)
23 GETTYSBURG ADDRESS
(Joan Roberts)
23 GRAND CIRCLE (George Sutton)
23 GRANDDAUGHTER'S GRIN
(Richard Ernst)
23 HOUSE AFIRE (Joseph Ghio)
23 MEXICAN HOLIDAY (Schreiner)
23 MORNING FROST (Schreiner)
23 PURE AND SIMPLE (William Maryott)
23 ROCKET RANDY (Tom Burseen)
23 SIERRA MIST (Richard Tasco)
23 ZEBRA MILK (Brad Kasperek)
22 CALYPSO BEAT (Schreiner)
22 CHANGING SEASONS (Schreiner)
22 CIRCUS DANCER (George Sutton)
22 CRAZY IN LOVE (Schreiner)
22 FRERE ANDRE (Elaine Bessette)
22 H. C. STETSON (Rob Stetson)
22 HEIDE ALAINA (Vernon Wood)
22 LET'S BE FRIENDS
(Vincent Christopherson)
22 MAGIC MOONBEAMS
(Vincent Christopherson)

22 SWEET AMBROSIA (Joyce Ragle)

Runners-up:

- 21 ABBY AND ME (Tom Burseen)
- 21 BARBARA'S LACE (George Sutton)
- 21 CURRENT EVENTS (Joseph Ghio)
- 21 DISCO ECLIPSE (Tom Johnson)
- 21 EAGLE'S SPIRIT (George Sutton)
- 21 HYPNOTIZER (George Sutton)
- 21 INNOCENT PINK (Paul Black)
- 21 MAGDALENA LOUISA (Brad Kasperek)
- 21 PLAY TO WIN (Ben Hager by
Cooley's Gardens)
- 21 SUN ADA BEACH (Merle Roberts)
- 21 TEA SERVICE (Gerald Richardson)
- 21 WHAT'S MY LINE (Paul Black)
- 21 YOSEMITE NIGHTS (George Sutton)

BORDER BEARDED

- 73 EYE CANDY (Keith Keppel)
- 37 ZINGERADO (Lowell Baumunk)
- 34 BE MY BABY (Paul Black)
- 31 DEAR DIARY (Paul Black)
- 29 KEEPER (Jim & Vicki Craig)

Runners-up:

- 26 CRISPY CRITTER (J. T. Aitken)
- 26 PARQUET LADY (Oscar Schick)
- 25 BLUE JEAN LADY (Larry Lauer)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

- 54 ELYSIUM (Marky D. Smith)
- 51 MARIPOSA WIZARD (Richard Tasco)
- 42 DRAGONMASTER (Marky D. Smith)
- 41 FAST FORWARD (J. T. Aitken)
- 38 SPICED PEACHES (Paul Black)
- 37 FIRE DOWN BELOW (Larry Lauer)

Runners-up:

- 36 FLYING CIRCUS (Keith Keppel)
- 36 SYNERGY (Keith Keppel)
- 33 BERING SEA (Marky D. Smith)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

- 94 SAILOR'S DREAM (Kenneth Fisher)
- 62 MISSUS BEE (Charles Bunnell)
- 56 CHEESE AND WINE (Mary Louise
Dunderman by W. Terry Varner)
- 47 THINK SPRING (Stephanie Markham)

Runners-up:

- 36 BUMBLE BOOGIE (Riley Probst)
- 32 DEUCE (Lynda Miller)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

- 54 ZAP (Paul Black)
- 37 PANTHER (Marky D. Smith)
- 35 ATTACK CAT (Paul Black)
- 32 MURPHY'S LAW (Bennett Jones)
- 31 AHWAHNEE PRINCESS (George Sutton)
- 27 PLUM TWIST (Tom Johnson)
- 27 SHOUT (A. & D. Willott)
- 25 CLICHÉ (Paul Black)
- 25 FOLK ART (Paul Black)
- 24 CACHE OF GOLD (George Sutton)
- 24 ROSALIE LOVING (Donald Spoon)
- 23 AMUSING (Paul Black)
- 23 INVISIBLE (Paul Black)
- 23 RUBIES IN GOLD (Tom Magee)
- 22 DAINTY PINAFORE (Bennett Jones)
- 22 GLAMOUR CAT (Paul Black)
- 22 POOKIE (Paul Black)
- 21 BABY SOFT (Paul Black)
- 21 CHERRY CURLS (A & D. Willott)
- 21 EXOTIC AIRE (Paul Black)
- 21 ISLAND SUN (Paul Black)
- 21 SWEET CHEEKS (Lynda Miller)

Runners-up:

- 20 FINGERTIPS (Paul Black)
- 20 KILLARNEY GREEN (O. D. Niswonger)
- 20 SUGAR MAPLE (George Sutton)

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

- 48 FISSION CHIPS (Keith Keppel)
- 31 HOBBIT (Lynda Miller)
- 27 POKEMON (George Sutton)
- 27 SPIDERWEB (Donald Spoon)

Runners-up:

- 26 SUN DABS (J. T. Aitken)
- 23 FOREVER VIOLET (Chuck Chapman)

- ARIL AND ARILBRED** (Pure aril and arilbred irises of 1/2 or more aril content)
- 15 FIESTA SKIRT (Howard & Irene Shockey)
 - 14 KING SOLOMON'S MINES (Elm Jensen)
 - 14 RIVERS OF BABYLON (Lowell Baumunk)

Runners-up:

- 12 KEDESH (James Whitely)
- 10 TCHA'DEETCH (Rob Stetson)

ARILBRED (Arilbred irises of 1/4 but less than 1/2 aril content)

- 27 JALLAB (Keith Keppel)
- 16 BURNISHED STAR
(Vernon & Dana Brown)

Runners-up:

- 11 MOHR OR LESS (Christy Ann Hensler)
- 10 DROP OF GOLD (D. L. Shepard)

SPECIES

- 67 RASPBERRY SLURP (Rita Butler)
- 20 LESSER GOLDFINCH (Lowell Baumunk)
- 20 WOOLONG (James Waddick)

Runner-up:

- 19 REDUNDANT (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

INTER-SPECIES

- 48 FOR JAY (Jill Copeland)
- 38 SIBTOSA DUCHESS (Tomas Tamberg)
- 28 ROY'S REPEATER (J. T. Aitken)

Runners-up:

- 27 FLOATING CANDLES (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

CALIFORNICAE

- 23 WILD SURVIVOR (Will Plotner)
- 12 BLUE PLATE SPECIAL (Joseph Ghio)
- 7 STAINLESS STEEL (Joseph Ghio)
- 6 PRETTY BOY (Joseph Ghio)

Runners-up:

- 5 LASH (Joseph Ghio)
- 5 STAR OF EVENING (Joseph Ghio)
- 5 STEAMER LANE (Lois Belardi)

LOUISIANA

- 32 JAMES FAITH (M. D. Faith)
- 21 DIVORCEE (Joseph Ghio)
- 18 ENVIABLE (M. D. Faith)
- 17 BROAD DAYLIGHT (Mary Dunn by Joseph Ghio)

Runners-up:

- 16 NUTCOTE (Heather Pryor)
- 15 SAWTOOTH (Mary Dunn by Joseph Ghio)

SIBERIAN

- 111 HERE BE DRAGONS (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)
- 59 CRÈME CARAMEL (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)
- 46 TWELFTH KNIGHT (Carol Warner)
- 40 OUT IN MISSOURI (O. D. Niswonger)
- 39 KABOOM (Robert Bauer & John Coble)
- 36 MISTER PEACOCK (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

Runners-up:

- 35 NAVY TRIM (Calvin Helsley)
- 30 GOSSAMER BREEZE (Chandler Fulton)

SPURIA

- 18 KISS OF CARAMEL (A. & D. Cadd)
- 16 ELEVEN POINT RIVER
(O. D. Niswonger)
- 16 SPEEDING STAR (A. & D. Cadd)

Runners-up:

- 14 SPARKLING CIDER (A. & D. Cadd)
- 14 STOP AND LOOK (Walter Brendel)
- 13 SHORT CIRCUIT (A. & D. Cadd)

JAPANESE

- 36 SUE JO (Donald Delmez)
- 24 BEYOND CHANCE (Donald Delmez)
- 21 OREGON MARMALADE (Lee Walker)
- 20 CROWN IMPERIAL (Robert Bauer & John Coble)
- 18 ESPATA (Jill Copeland)

Runners-up:

- 15 HONOUR (Currier McEwen)
- 13 WONDERFUL DELIGHT
(Donald Delmez)

Vandalism at the Presby Memorial Gardens

Although we did not report it in the *Bulletin*, most of our members have heard of the vandalism at Presby Gardens in Montclair, NJ, and the damage to the valuable collection of historic irises. The incident occurred on the night of August 2, 2005, and until recently there were no leads on the perpetrators. The vandals ravaged two iris beds, causing thousands of dollars in damage and separating at least 156 plants from the metal nametags that are crucial to identification of the plants.


However, just a few weeks ago, almost a year after the crime occurred, the lure of a \$1,000 reward led to a break in the case. Montclair Police Chief David Sabagh announced that three individuals came into the police station and provided information, which led to the arrests of three 19-year-old Montclair residents. News of the arrests, which normally would elicit gratitude and relief, instead was met with disappointment because of the suspects' hometown roots.

At first, Presby Gardens officials were afraid that most of the damaged and uprooted irises would never be identified, but progress was made in identification this spring when some of the rhizomes bloomed in a special bed where they had been moved.

One of the vandals expressed regret: "I'm pretty disgusted with what I did." The young man's father said "As a parent, I'm equally disturbed." The mother of another suspect, Daniel Goldmeier, said "Daniel was not there; Daniel is not guilty."

The Presby Memorial Gardens date to 1927, created to honor New Jersey horticulturist Frank H. Presby, a founder of the American Iris Society. Today, its 4,000 varieties, the oldest of which date to the 1500s, are arranged among approximately 30 beds and are enjoyed by thousands of visitors during bloom season.

Visit the Presby Memorial Gardens web site at <<http://presbyiris.tripod.com>>

[Information obtained from an article in the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger.] 


2007 Silent Auction Oklahoma City, OK

We are holding the Silent Auction again at the AIS Convention in Oklahoma City! That means we need your contributions to ensure the success that we have enjoyed in the past years.

In 1997 for the AIS Convention in Dearborn, Michigan, a group of visionaries spearheaded the idea of a Silent Auction as the first AIS fundraiser. In the years since then, the Silent Auction has contributed over \$60,000 to the benefit of AIS.

The Silent Auction has become a popular part of our conventions, and it is a fun way to raise funds for the support of AIS. Many people have iris treasures they could donate, and it is a great way for hybridizers to get their new introductions seen in different parts of the country. We are looking for iris artifacts, iris books, and new or recent iris introductions. However, if you would like to donate any other irises that are rare or unusual, that would work fine also.

This year's convention is scheduled for April 30-May 5, 2007. Please let us know what you can donate no later than April 2, 2007, so we can prepare the bid sheets. Send a short note to our address below, e-mail us or call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Rita and Tom Gormley
6717 Martha Drive
Cedar Hill, Missouri 63016
(314) 606-1323
<GormleyGreenery@aol.com> 

**Have you recruited a new
AIS member this year?**



Photo: Aitken

2006 AIS Medal Winners

Above: ANACONDA LOVE (BB) (Kasperek), Knowlton Medal

Below: DECADENCE (TB) (Blyth), Walther Cup



Photo: Baumunk

2006 AIS Medal Winners



Photo: Aitken

This Page:
Above: **AFRICAN WINE**
(MDB) (Kasperek),
Caparne-Welch Medal

Right: **RUBY ERUPTION**
(SDB) (Chapman), Cook-
Douglas Medal

Next Page:
Top: **BAUBLES AND BEADS**
(MTB) (L. Miller),
Williamson-White Medal

Bottom: **MIDSUMMER**
NIGHT'S DREAM (IB)
(Baumunk), Sass Medal



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Bunnell



Photo: Aitken



2006 AIS Medal Winners

This Page

Above: WALKER ROSS (AB)
(Ross), William Mohr
Medal

Right: OMAR'S STITCHERY
(AB) (Boswell), White
Medal

Next Page

Top: JOHN WOOD (SPEC)
(Wood), Founders of
SIGNA Medal

Bottom: COZUMEL (CA)
(Ghio), Mitchell Medal

Photo: Aitken

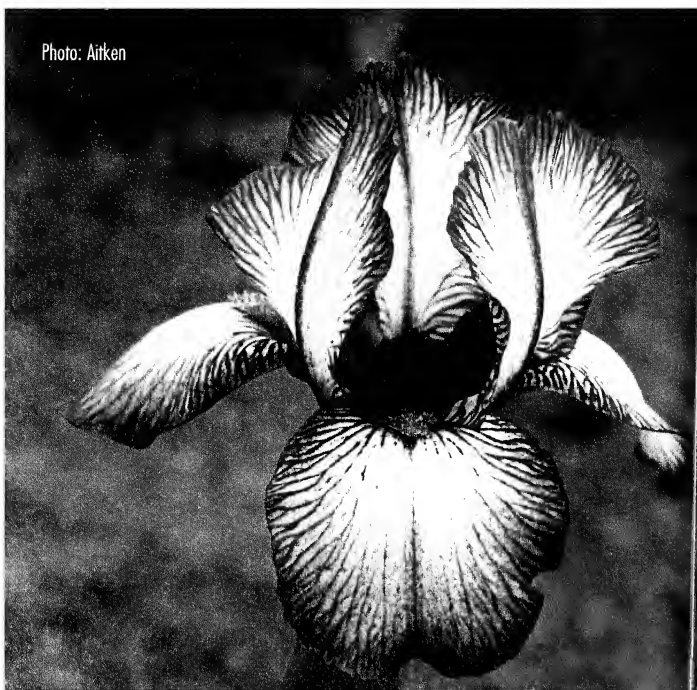




Photo: G. Sny

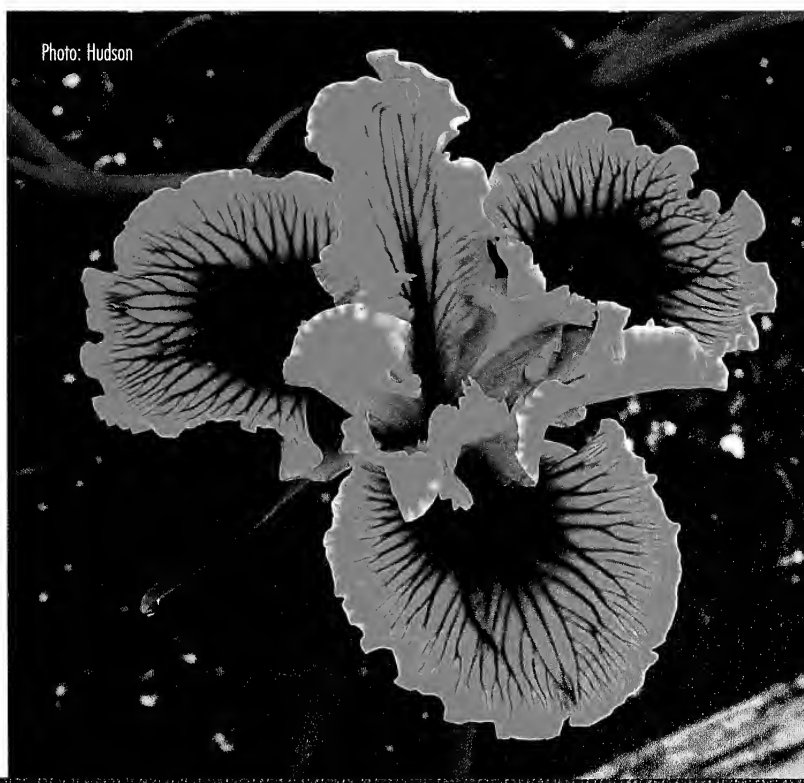


Photo: Hudson



Photo: Schaefer-Sacks



Photo: K. Chilton

Above: RIVERDANCE (SIB) (Schaefer-Sacks),
Morgan-Wood Medal

Right: PEACHES IN WINE (LA) (H. Pryor),
DeBaillon Medal

2006 AIS Medal Winners



Photo: H. Wolford



Photo: Aitken

Above: SING THE BLUES (II) (Reid), Payne Medal

Right: ADRIATIC BLUE (SPU) (Niswonger), Nies Medal



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Van Liere

Loomis Award Winners

(See article, Page 91, for complete results)

Above: SOLOMON'S
TREASURE (TB)
(Van Liere)

Right: WINDJAMMER
SEAS (TB) (L. Johnson)



Photo: Chilton



Left: END ZONE (IB) (Stahly)

Below: SPICED PEACHES (IB) (P. Black)

Photo: Black



Left: BOURGEOIS (SDB) (P. Black)

Below: SUN TREE (SDB) (Strohman)





Photo: Dathe

Photo: Beer



Clockwise from above:

BARBARA MÜLLER (Beer)

SARGENT PRESTON
(Chapman)

CRYSTAL CARPET (SDB)
(Chapman)

DANUBE WAVES (Mego)

M BEER SEEDLING 13/94 A



Photo: Dathe

Award Winners in Germany

(See International News, page 14)



Photo: Chapman



Photo: Mego

A Peek At Pigments

by **Chuck Chapman, Canada**

I obtained a microscope last spring and have been able to get some photos of Anthocyanin Vascular Intrusions (AVI) in various iris flowers. The process involves peeling the top epidermis off of the flower. This is a bit time-consuming, but it works. I'm also able to get some photos using my digital camera (Nikon coolpix 950) set on short fixed focal length and adjusting microscope until image is in focus. I have a series of photos included.

A bit of explanation first. The pigments involved in flower color consist of two primary groups: water soluble, which are located in the large cell vacuole; and oil soluble, which are located in the cell walls, located inside small spheres called plastids. The water-soluble pigment that primarily is involved with bearded iris is a group called anthocyanin. While there are a number of anthocyanin pigments involved in flower color, including some reds; in bearded iris the primary anthocyanin is delphinidin. There are a number of different chemical variations on delphinidin, but they are all basically the same "dephinium" blue. There has been no basic explanation of how we have been able to have black iris with this same substance, as only so much anthocyanin can

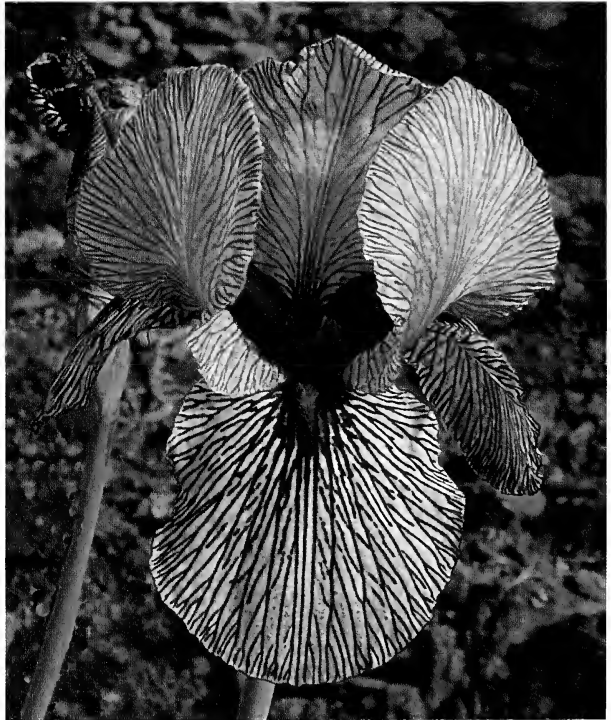


Figure 1



Figure 2

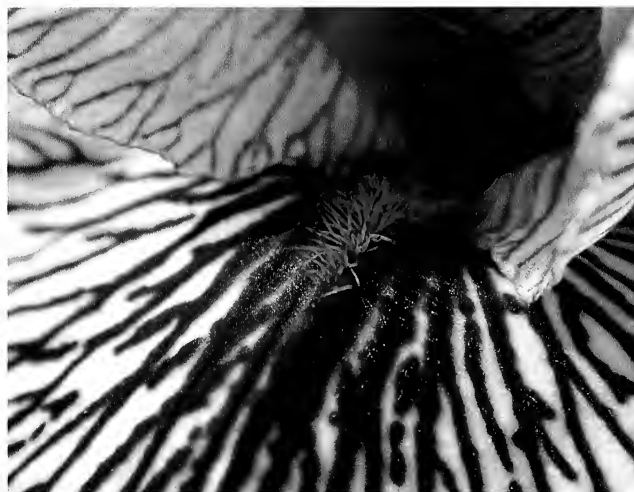


Figure 3

on white to cream ground.

Fig #2 and #3 show increasing closeups of the falls and the veining. On fig #3 you can a small area where there is a lighter purplish yellow coloration next to the dark veining. This is a real color variation and not an artifact of the photography. This color variation is important, as we see when we get a closer look. Similar coloration can be seen in the style arms.

Fig #4 is a close up of one of the veins. We can see individual cells and some details. The cells have more pigment at the central part of the vein. In the lighter colored cells we can see some dark purple spots.

be dissolved in the cell sap until the saturation point is reached. This is where the concept of AVIs, as discovered by Markham, is so important. These are variations on anthocyanin molecules whereby they form solid globules based on a protein attachments. Markham has found that these AVIs account for how we can have black flowers.

Fig #1 shows the aril-bred flower OYEZ, which is a dark purple veined

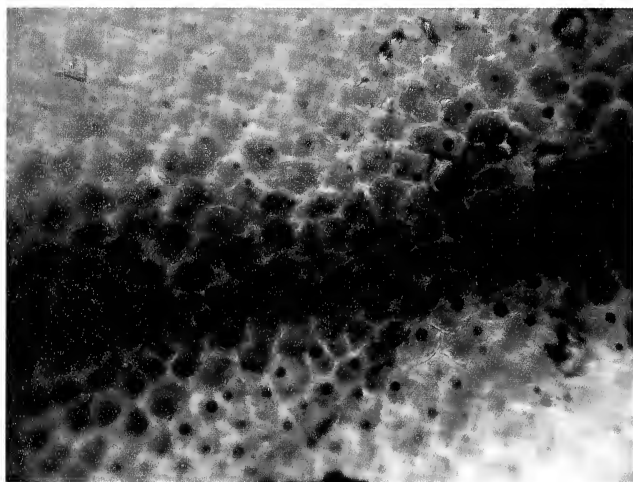


Figure 4

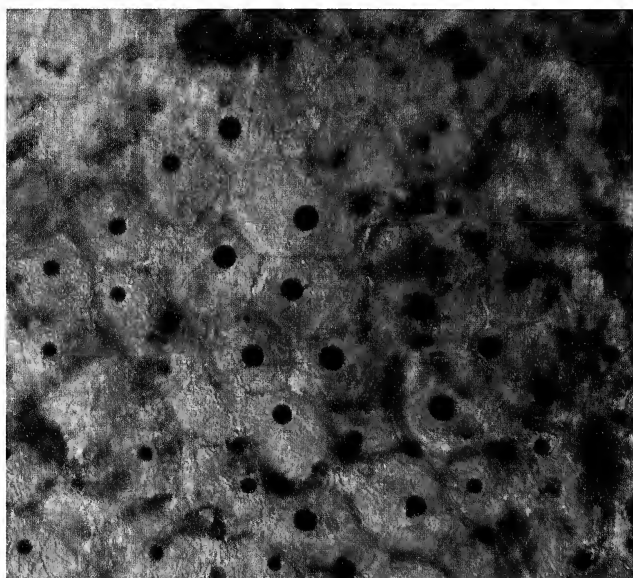


Figure 5

These are the AVIs. As the cells get darker we can occasionally see some AVIs until the cells get so darkly pigmented that we can no longer make out details.

Fig #5 is a closer look at some of the cells. This picture is from an area next to the veins. Here we can see that almost all cells have at least one AVI – yellow cells as well as violet/purple cells. This would explain the yellowish-purple area: a cell with AVI but no dissolved anthocyanin in the vacuole.

Fig #6 is a closeup of one

cell. We can see the dark purple AVI spots included in the vacuole. The normal color of the anthocyanin in the vacuole is much lighter, although most likely at or near maximum concentration. The AVIs are much darker. In Fig #4 we can see the cells getting darker and darker as the number of AVIs in the cell increases near the darkest area of vein. The plastids are in the cell wall, and in these photos they overlay the

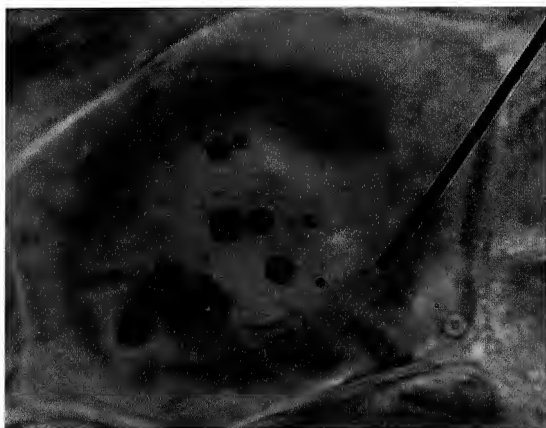


Figure 6

vacuole, as we are looking through the cell wall in order to see the vacuole. We can see that where the plastids overlay the vacuole, that the color is red, as we get with red color in iris. The vacuole is still violet/purple.

Fig #7 is basically the same as fig #6, but with an attempt to focus on plastids. This does show some details of

how the plastids are distributed in the cell wall and around the outside of the vacuole, we get only the plastids, and they show as yellow, although not as clearly in focus as I would like. There is a very limited depth of field with a microscope, so only a very small area is in focus at any one time.

Thus there are Anthocyanin Vascular Intrusions (AVIs) in some iris. These can deepen the color of the anthocyanin. AVI can be in cells without dissolved anthocyanin in the cell center. In this flower (OYEZ), the reddish-purple veins are so colored by

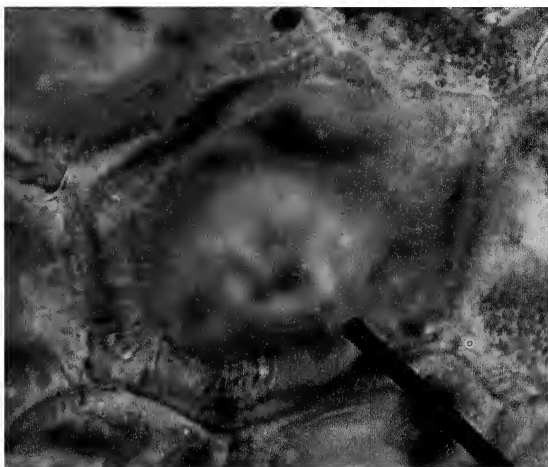


Figure 7

both yellow (carotenoid) pigment and blue-purple (anthocyanin) pigment distributed to the same cells (for the most part). The darker the anthocyanin, the more AVIs are seen. The density of the darkest cells makes it a problem to get details. To get these details I need to be able to section a cell while having the pigment fixed in some way. This is a complicated process and beyond the capabilities of my home lab. ❧

Schreiner's Gardens at National Convention

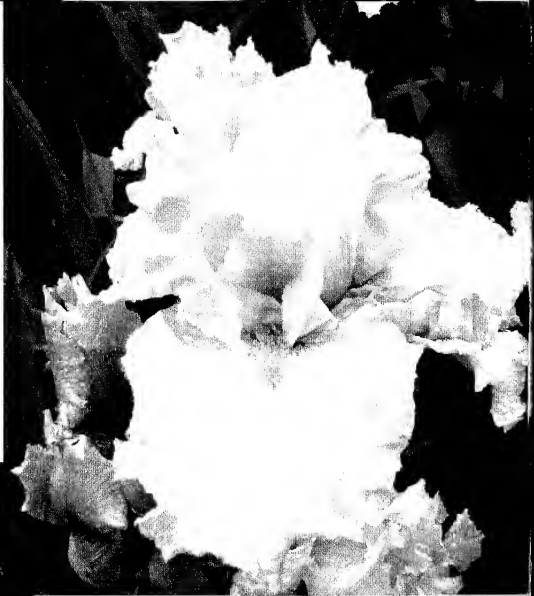
(all photos: Kathy Chilton)







*Softer
Moments at
Schreiner's*



Top: COUNTY CORK (Schreiner)

Above: SUGAR COATED (Schreiner)

Left: PARIS FASHION (Keppel)



Left: CASCADIAN RHYTHM
(Schreiner)

Below: ROYAL STERLING (Keppel)

Bottom: TAKE FIVE (Schreiner)





Above: Schreiner JJ369A

Right: MEN IN BLACK (Lauer)

Below: CRANBERRY SWIRL (Schreiner)





Above: RITZY (Hager)

Right: FIREBIRD SUITE (B. Johnson)

Below: CAPE PERPETUA (Schreiner)

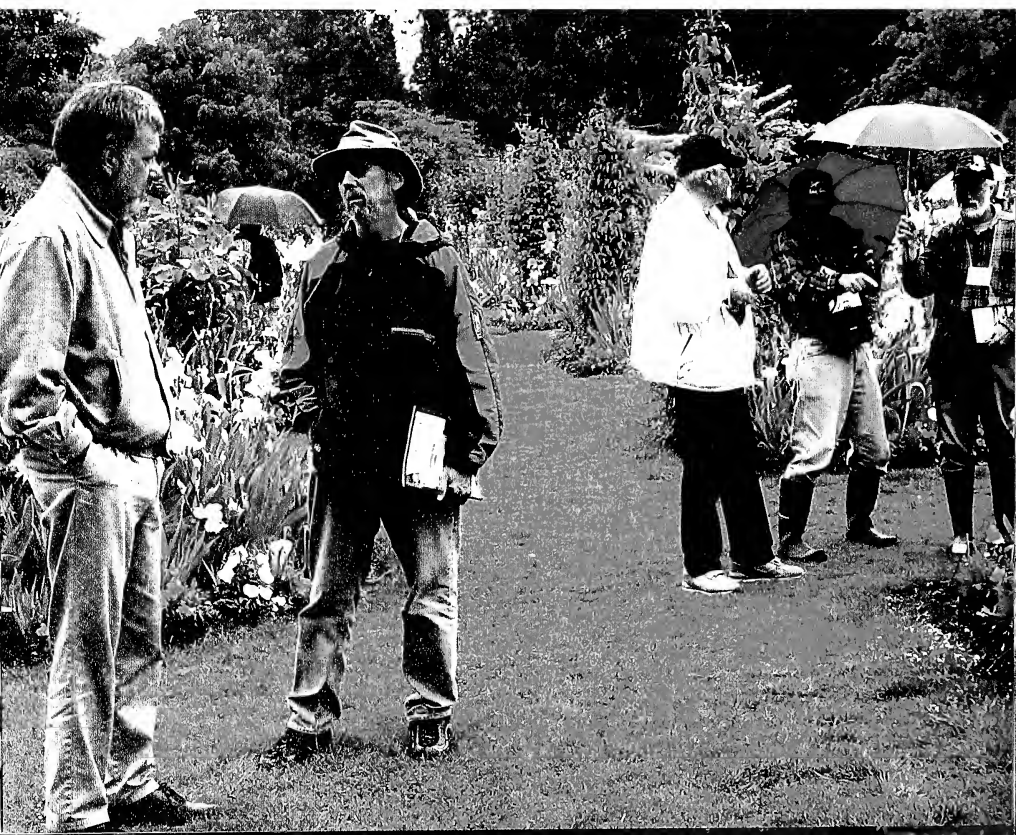


*A
Rainbow
at
Schreiner's*



Above: Joe Ghio and Fred Kerr under the umbrella.

Below: L to R, Tom Abrego, Larry Lauer; Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan under umbrellas.





Above: Bill Rinehart practicing for a future career as a scarecrow.





Above: Display Garden at Schreiner's

Below: Field at Schreiner's





Above: MISSUS BEE (Bunnell)

Below: PETIT LOUVOIS (Mahan)



MTBs at Schreiner's





Above: Guest Bed at Cooley's
Below: Display Bed at Cooley's

Right: Cooley Display Bed
All photos: Gormley







Photo: Gormley



Photo: Chilton



Photo: Chilton

Top: OSAY CANUC and ROCKET RANDY
(both Burseen)

Above and right: ROCKET RANDY

Below: Tom Burseen, Glenn Corlew and Ron Burseen



Photo: Gormley



Above: Chilton display at Cooley's Gardens

Photos this page: Chilton

Below: Cooley's Gardens entrance





At Cooley's Gardens

Photo: Plotner



Above: OSAY CANUC (Burseen)

Right: CARNIVAL RIDE (Ernst)

Below: CASTING CROWNS (Van Liere)





Above: PEACE PRAYER (Johnson)

Right: CARNIVAL CAROUSEL (Begley)

Below: SPRINGTIME ANGEL (Niswonger)





PROUD TRADITION at Schreiner's Gardens, 2006 AIS Convention

Oklahoma Gardens Prepare for the 2007 AIS Convention

by **Hugh Stout, Oklahoma**

The Oklahoma Iris Society is playing host to the AIS National Convention April 30 to May 5 of 2007. Most members agree the garden tours are the main drawing card of the conventions. Our tour will cover 10 gardens over three days in and around Oklahoma City, with approximately 500 to 750 people expected to pass through. Four of these gardens are public gardens. They are Will Rogers Iris Garden, the State Capitol, University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, and our master planting at OSU at Oklahoma City.

What makes the garden tour so popular and unique is the huge quantity of the very latest introductions and seedlings hybridizers from around the world send to the convention. OKC received around 1000 different iris, 3000 total rhizomes, spread out among the tour gardens. Most of these iris were sent in 2006 (beardless varieties in 2005), giving the plants two (three) years to mature for the tour. This gives hybridizers visibility as well as the opportunity to showcase their latest creations. It gives the attendees the chance to see what's new and how they actually grow. It gives us here in Oklahoma the rare opportunity to see just how each plant handles Oklahoma's unpredictable climate and various soils, and also introduces us to growers we may not hear of very often.

Nine of our gardens will have around 225 'guest' iris as well as their own collections. The tenth garden, at Oklahoma State University at Oklahoma City, is our 'master planting' garden. The beds there actually spell out 'OSU'. It has one of each plant, giving it 1000 unique and different iris. This gives the tour-goers an excellent chance to see all the iris in bloom at some time during the three days of tours.

A lot of new beds were created across central Oklahoma to provide these beauties with their own stage. Bringing in soil and amendments, as well as watering, constant weeding and overall pampering has piled up many hours of work for the hosts and many volunteers. Along with Oklahoma Iris Society members, several iris members from other societies have pitched in with time and money to make this a statewide effort. Master gardeners, state employees, college students and even the

boy scouts have pitched in as well to make this a special event.

Finally, we invite you to come celebrate Oklahoma's 100th birthday with us. This convention is an official Oklahoma Centennial Event. We also welcome you to Oklahoma City, Capital of the New Century. They say, "Rome wasn't built in a day", but Oklahoma City was! A billion-dollar renaissance has seen sweeping changes and improvements across nearly every sector. Landmark projects such as the mile-long Bricktown Canal have infused a new life and vibrancy into the Southwest's fastest-growing entertainment district. Convention-goers from 1999 will see incredible changes since OKC last hosted.

For more on the convention, Oklahoma City, and all we have to offer, visit the Oklahoma Iris Society's website at www.okiris.org. See you in OKC! ☞



This photo lost some of its caption in the color pages of the July issue of the *Bulletin*!
The correct identification is: George Lankow and Marky Smith at Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden.

OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL 2007

AIS National Convention - Sponsored by the Oklahoma Iris Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - April 30 - May 5, 2007

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS: Oklahoma City Marriott, 3233 Northwest
Expressway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112
Reservations: (405) 842-6633 or (888) 236-2427

Name Region
Address Phone ()
City, State, Zip Email
Attending Spouse or 2nd Person
Youth (s)

Name tags will be made as printed above.

If this is your FIRST AIS Convention, check this box: ☐

Full Registration: Includes Welcome and Awards Banquets and Garden Tours.

Postmarked: By March 1, '07	By April 1, '07	After April 1, '07	
Registrant #1 <input type="checkbox"/> \$180	<input type="checkbox"/> \$205	<input type="checkbox"/> \$230	Amount
Registrant #2 <input type="checkbox"/> \$180	<input type="checkbox"/> \$205	<input type="checkbox"/> \$230	Amount

Youth 18 and under: Includes same as full registration

No. of Youth _____	\$125	\$125	\$125	Amount
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Garden Tours Only: Includes bus, lunch & convention booklet

Registrant #1 <input type="checkbox"/> \$95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> \$130	Amount
Registrant #2 <input type="checkbox"/> \$95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> \$130	Amount

Banquets Only: No convention booklet or bus.

Welcome Banquet Awards Banquet

Registrant #1 <input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	Amount
Registrant #2 <input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	Amount

Please select your choice for the Awards Banquet:

Chicken ☐ Pork Loin ☐

(Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards) **Total Enclosed** \$

Make checks payable to AIS Convention 2007 and send to:

AIS Convention 2007
Betty Lou McMartin, Registrar
8904 NW 80th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132-4013

(See next page for additional information)

No optional tours arranged. Check our website www.okiris.org for sight-seeing ideas under "Registration" then "OKC info".

SPECIAL NEEDS: Those requiring special accommodations for persons with disabilities must be received in writing by the AIS Convention Registrar no later than April 1, 2007. If you have special diet requirements, please note on a separate sheet.

GEEK DINNER: Registration for the Geek Dinner should be made to Joanne Prass-Jones, 35572 Linda Dr., Fremont, CA 94536. Email: joanne@usjoneses.com

Registrations received after May 1, 2007 will be accepted at the discretion of the registrar.

No refunds for cancellations made after May 1, 2007.

Make checks payable to AIS Convention 2007 and send to:

**AIS Convention 2007
Betty Lou McMartin, Registrar
8904 NW 80th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132-4013**

**Phone: (405) 728-9839
Email: lulu245@sbcglobal.net**



National Convention Gardens, 2006

Wildwood Gardens (Will & Tracy Plotner)

by Judy Blackmer, Washington State

Many thanks to Will & Tracy Plotner for inviting all of us to view their gardens. Fortunately for us it had not started raining YET when we arrived there.

Our journey began with riding on the bus through the beautiful Oregon countryside. I was enjoying the scenery, and my husband Dixon was learning how to talk Texan, instructed by two very nice ladies (Maxi and Kay) from Odessa, Texas. All of a sudden we were all pulling our chins out of the seat ahead of us. OOPS, we arrived a little bit early and had to make a sudden stop at the Plotner garden.

We enjoyed the many varieties of iris in their three-tiered gardens. A couple of them stand out in my mind as being most memorable. The first was CONSERVATIVE VIEW (Ernst'04). The very elegant yellow colored fall and white throat with the white beard and gentle ruffle made this a sophisticated bloom. Another that really caught my eye was CRACKLING CALDERA (Aitken '03). The peach color was quite conservative, yet distinctive enough to make the vibrant orange beard really stand out. The elegant ruffles added a truly dressed-up look. Another tall bearded that stood out for me was down in Will and Tracy's lower garden, SPANISH REBEL (Plotner'87). It was yellow with dark burgundy falls, and stood out like a beacon as we came down the hill. Maybe since Will said he was re-doing that garden he could remember me if he comes up with extra rhizomes from that plant.

After looking at all the flowers, we had excellent refreshments. Chocolate brownies are always a hit. Thanks again, Will & Tracy and Will's brother Jim (the biker), who guided us to the "pretty flowers." I would also like to thank everyone in GPIS and OTIS for a wonderful convention.

Schreiner's Iris Gardens

by Kathy Chilton, Arizona

The Portland Convention was loaded with wonderful gardens, and, for me, none was anticipated more than Schreiner's. Over the years, we've all seen the lovely photos taken in the display garden in many publications, and looked forward to seeing it for ourselves. So it was

with great excitement that we traveled down the highway from Portland to the Salem area. The first sightings of the iris fields had everyone on the bus craning to see the broad, colorful bands of the commercial fields stretching out over many acres. This is an especially awesome view for those of us from the desert regions of the world!

As we eagerly exited the bus, we were personally greeted by Ray Schreiner and his sister Liz. The colorful catalogs they handed us couldn't hold our attention as we gazed past the huge trees standing sentinel to explosion of color in the display gardens. White tents covered the refreshment area, but most of us headed right out into the beautifully designed garden, full of gorgeous irises intermingled with wonderful companion plants.

The light drizzle of rain didn't deter us from gazing out and wondering which direction to start exploring. The guest gardens were planted in the beds nearest the parking and office. They were a little past peak bloom, but there were still lots to see and admire.

On the end of one row I found Keith Keppel's introductions. I was pleased to find one of my favorites, ALPENVIEW (Keppel '03), showing off the perfect branching and vigorous growth I have found in my own garden. Although not as heavily ruffled as some other Keppel intros, it is a real performer and a fine garden iris. ROYAL STERLING ('05) was perfection in silvery blue; a perfect pairing with the extremely ruffled pale pink PARIS FASHION ('03). For those who like bolder irises, GYPSY LORD ('06) is an eye-popping combination of pristine white standards, a bright red beard, and falls of rich blue violet surrounding a white center. MYSTERIOUS WAYS ('04) is a well-named, moody blend of yellow and violet, set off by a bright yellow beard.

Joe Ghio and Fred Kerr were riding along on our group of "blue" busses, and I saw them checking out their babies among the guest irises. I'm not sure PHOTOGENIC (Ghio '06) was living up to its name! In fact, I thought it was actually *much* prettier in person than on the cover of Joe's catalog. The colors were much clearer and brighter in person, with peachy pink on the standards setting off the lovely lavender falls. BIG APPLE (Kerr '05) was a huge bloom of rich red maroon shadings. It definitely looked like it would have tempted Adam and Eve! QUEEN'S CONSORT (Kerr '04) is an incredibly wide white with a watercolor blue edge on the falls.

Two MTBs caught my eye and begged to have their pictures taken. MISSUS BEE (Bunnel '03) was a busy hive of color, with blue violet standards and edge on plush plum falls; an orange-gold beard surrounded by white lines set off each flower. This MTB was also outstanding at the St. Louis Convention, and I'm sure other judges have noticed it, too. Clarence Mahan's PETIT LOUVOIS has not yet been

introduced, but this MTB made quite a debut into iris society with a profusion of warm pink and magenta flowers.

A few TB seedlings have to be mentioned. Lowell Baumunk's as yet un-introduced GYPSY ANGEL impressed me with beautifully branched stalks of pastel yellow and lavender blooms. Other seedlings of note were Merle Roberts' # 3-138F, a blue amoena with clear yellow hafts, and Thomas Johnson's gorgeously ruffled # T45Z, a perfectly formed orchid lavender with soft melon beards. Leroy Meininger's # 95-1-C sported bright fuzzy orange horns on rose pink falls, topped by salmon pink standards. Schreiner's # JJ 369A is a stunning red amoena with clean white standards atop velvety red maroon falls with a magenta edge. These gorgeous flowers adorned a tall, perfectly branched stalk. I can't wait for this one to come out!!

There were gems from so many hybridizers! PEWTER AND GOLD (Filardi '06) is a perfectly named flower. The silvery gray blooms are edged with lacy gold on all petals – very distinctive with lovely form. RITZY (Hager '04) is a bright, lacy gold that lives up to its name. ROCKET RANDY (Burseen '03) had bushy yellow pompon flounces on a yellow and purple flower. WHAT'S MY LINE (Black '04) is a striking mix of blue purple and dark velvety maroon, and EVENING DRAMA (Black '04) is an amoena with dark red purple falls to contrast with the white standards. FIREBIRD SUITE (B. Johnson '06) is a fiery orange that instantly draws one's eye.

It was sometimes hard to focus on the many Schreiner introductions, when my eye kept being drawn to the brilliant poppies, peonies, lupine, larkspur, and alliums scattered throughout the beds. The irises were also enhanced with many different colors of columbines, pansies, and achillias. It was an almost overwhelming display of colors and textures. Blooming Fringe trees, Pagoda Dogwoods and Clematis vines were spectacular backdrops in the garden. Many new Schreiner intros held their own in this display. BLUEBERRY BLISS (Schreiner '04) is a rich shade of true blue which forms healthy clumps with lots of bloomstalks. CAPE PERPETUA ('06) is an extremely lacy mid-blue. CRANBERRY SWIRL ('06) is a delicious confection of pink and magenta that would be a bright spot in any garden. RODEO GIRL ('05) would easily compete for attention in any arena with its bright cranberry standards and plicata edge on yellow falls. TAKE FIVE ('05) is a violet blue on white plicata that sported eighteen buds on one stalk! HIGH CHAPARRAL ('06) was a top performer here as well as in every other garden. This tawny gold and rose bi-color greatly deserved the Cook Cup at this convention.

Near the center of the display garden was a mass planting of PROUD TRADITION (Schreiner '90). This tall stand of proud blue

bi-tone flowers reminded me of the Schreiner family's long history of producing so many award-winning irises. More importantly, they are a wonderful family with a *proud tradition* of hard work, love, and friendship, in addition to bringing so much beauty to our gardens and our lives. I am proud to count them as friends, and I am so blessed to have shared a few bloom seasons with Patricia Schreiner. A visit to Schreiner's in bloom is to truly visit the heart of Iris Heaven.

Mid-America Garden: 25 Years and Counting

by Jim & Jean Morris, Missouri

Yogi Berra, ex-catcher of the New York Yankees and a hometown St. Louis icon, once said, "It's déjà vu all over again." That is sort of how we felt seeing and writing up partners Paul Black and Thomas Johnson's Mid-America Garden for a second time at an iris convention – this time for the 25th anniversary (eight years in Oregon) of this garden that has grown bigger and better. The conifers and hostas have matured more, and the iris seedlings and introductions are better than ever. Some first-time conventioners appeared overwhelmed – we remember the feeling.

The rolling hills of "Iris Heaven" present the irises in an undulating scene that is eye candy to irisarians, be they new or old. Nobody sat on the busses here through some of the ever-threatening liquid sunshine for which Oregon is noted. The guest iris paths and beds were both well mown and mulched for easy walking and viewing, but we did observe one hardy soul lose a shoe in the black mud of the production fields. We had to laugh watching him retrieve his shoe from the "quick mud" without falling in.

Consisting of eleven acres, this garden has commercial plantings of Siberian and bearded irises, with the latest introductions of many hybridizers plus their own. The extensive plantings of trees, irises, hostas, lilies, peonies and daylilies surround a 1916 two-story house. Approximately 500 guest irises were on display.

We were drawn right away to a planting of DOLCE (Black '03), listed as a Spec-X. It grows BB flower size but TB height. It is a delightful pink flower with an orange beard. Catching our eye was KISSED BY THE SUN (Schreiner '06), a yellow amoena TB. Not to be missed was the broken color MTB, BACH TOCCATA (Baumunk '05); very striking with no two flowers the same in light yellow over dark wine. The unique orange, horned space ager SEEUN IS BELEEVUN (Burseen '04) was nicely marked with reddish shoulders.

Lucy Burton had a nice MTB seedling 93K7, a variegata edged gold. Virginian Pat Otterness sent MOTLEY FOOL ('02). We loved the name so much we forgot to write down the color description! Another TB with a good name was Hal Stahly's MAKER'S MARK ('04). This is

pink over rose-pink with haft lines. CODE RED (Aitken '03) is a lovely ruffled red TB on the order of Lady Friend. PEEKABOO ZEBU (Kasperek '06) was raspberry splashed on white with an orange beard -- very attractive. POESIE (Cayeux '03) was nicely branched in pink edged rose. Tom Johnson's '06 introduction, WILD ANGEL, was attracting attention on a corner, in white over amethyst edged lemon-yellow.

MIAMI BEACH (Keppel '05) was blooming in bright gold with a bushy orange beard. OREO (Keppel '04), almost a black on white plicata, displayed seven stalks. EYE CANDY (Keppel '04) is a nice pink BB with huge hot pink beards. The medium blue MTB SAILOR'S DREAM (Fisher '04) formed a wonderful clump and garnered many Cook Cup votes here. A burgundy on white plicata, I FEEL GOOD (Schreiner '03) was spreading the feeling. CRUSADER RABBIT (Lauer '03) glows in sort of honey-orange with the falls white edged the same color as the standards -- distinctive. RHINELANDER (Schreiner '06) is a smoky grape and a late bloomer. The bright BLAZING BEACON (Tasco '05) has nice ruffles and is deep burnt gold over red-brown with old gold horns. SUN CIRQUE (Cadd '04) is quite attractive with peachy orange standards, true orange ruffled style arms and light orange falls with some white below a red beard. Six stalks of MYTHOLOGY (T. Johnson '03) were shining in blue-purple with almost black beards.

ROSY THUMBPRINTS (Niswonger '02) continues the Santa pattern, this time in lavender-pink, rose shoulders, and a coral beard ending in deep purple. ALL NIGHT LONG (Duncan '05) was showing in black-purple with lots of ruffles. PERFECT STORM (Hedgecock '04) may be this hybridizer's best so far. It is royal purple with navy blue beards. It has purple-based foliage, good branching, and had six stalks with good increase showing.

In the production beds the following were performing well: FUTURISTE (Cayeux), LAST LAUGH (Shoop), PIONEER WOMAN (Black), OPEN SEA (Keppel), JUKE BOX HERO (Lauer), INTROSPECTION (Baumunk), GOLDEN PANTHER (Tasco), DRAMA QUEEN (Keppel), EVENING DRAMA (Black), and CANDY CLOUDS (Blyth). Thank you, Paul and Thomas, for a great show.

Mountain View Garden (John & Kay Ludi)

by Catherine Council, Oregon/California border

Mt. View Iris Gardens is located in Sandy, OR, and was established by John and Wava Ludi in 1988; now John, Jr. and Kay Ludi continue

to maintain it. It occupies more than two acres on the family's sixty-acre cattle ranch near the foot of Mt. Hood. We read that on a clear day one can see Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens, but unfortunately they were not visible the day we were there due to weather conditions.

There is a beautiful sign to great visitors with a snow-covered mountain behind an iris. The garden is accented with various archways built by John and several pieces of antique farm equipment owned by the Ludi family. Dogwoods covered with blooms and wooden sculptures of a rabbit, a skunk, and other critters decorated the area. The bearded guest irises were planted in the lower half of the garden, close to the family home and fruit orchard. When we arrived we were experiencing the first actual rain on our route of the convention. The temperature had dropped 10 degrees from our last stop. After buttoning up two layers of jacket, raincoat, hat and hood, I stepped off the bus and started taking notes. The first iris I saw, appropriately enough, was SNOW AND WIND (Niswonger '02), a white iris with a slight green tint, holding up well in the rainy and windy (but thankfully, not snowy) conditions. A number of irises were not blooming in the guest beds on the day of our visit, but we certainly enjoyed seeing what held up well in the elements. We figure if an iris was doing well under these adverse conditions, imagine what it would be like under more favorable conditions! One of the first ones I noted was FIREBIRD SUITE (B. Johnson '06), with good orange color and a nice red beard. Another one appropriate to the conditions was ROYAL STORM (Tasco '01), which had six bloomstalks and very nice branching, but was not quite open despite a number of us blowing on it to help it along. GOLDEN PANTHER (Tasco '00) displayed its beautiful golden color with one bloom open. I also noted CELESTIAL EXPLOSION (Tasco '04), a very interesting plicata pattern with violet standards and overall violet peppering on the falls with darker violet rims. The next one I liked was what we wished we were—KISSED BY THE SUN (Schreiner '06), a beautiful two-tone yellow. Then, getting our wish, the squall blew over and the rest of the crowd poured out of the busses. After all, this is Oregon: if you don't like the weather, wait awhile.

Other Schreiner irises I liked included PORCELAIN ANGEL (Schreiner 03), which was a white tinted bluish green with excellent substance and five bloom stalks, RED MASTERPIECE ('04) with very nice wine red color. I made a note to look at it again at Schreiner's Garden. I also liked CHANGING SEASONS ('04), with an interesting color combination of white standards with a yellow tint and caramel washed falls, and a nice fragrance; JOYFUL SKIES ('05), a light blue with nice branching; AUTUMN RIESLING ('06) had five stalks about to burst into bloom; and the slightly older WORLD

PREMIER ('98), with its superb neglecta colors. HIGH CHAPARRAL (Schreiner '06) showed its stuff, yet again withstanding all conditions as it displayed its strong stalks and incredible branching. It truly was outstanding in several gardens, and I wasn't surprised at all when it went on to win the President's Cup.

Others that stayed in my memory included ELIZABETHIAN AGE (Baumunk '05), a large luminata with very unusual colors. I'll look out for that one. A very nice seedling was Joe Ghio's 00-28X2, a lovely pink with raspberry tints, probably from the BEWITCHED line. POWER WOMAN (Mogensen) had great color with brown shoulders and fat dark gorgeous beards.

Some of Keith Keppel's introductions that I noted included SECRET RITES ('05) which was at the end of its bloom cycle, but still showing its interesting greenish gold and rose colors and reverse bitone pattern. I noted it in several gardens. DANCE RECITAL ('05), a lilac blue ruffled confection had strong stalks, and MIAMI BEACH ('05), a beautiful orangish yellow iris with a bright red beard, had strong substance. MOONLIT WATER ('05) which is a modern version of one of my favorite historics, MOONLIT SEA, was at the end of its bloom cycle, but I could still see its beauty. I also noted PARIS FASHION ('03), a pinkish lilac delight, and MUSICIAN ('04) a lovely bicolor plicata. The "problem" with Keppel's many introductions at the convention was that it was so hard to pick one or two overwhelming favorites. (My traveling partner and friend Indigo Ray and I had stopped at Keith's garden on the way up, and had the same "problem" picking what we liked the very best. I saw what appeared to be a seedling of MOONLIT WATER in the Keppel seedling section that was absolutely amazing, even better than its parent.)

Other nice ones included SKI RUN (Magee '01), which had unusual TURQUOISE style arms in this garden. It is a two-tone plicata with light blue on the standards and dark blue on the falls. TROPICAL PASSION (T. Johnson '05) is a lush pink and apricot blend with an enormous orange beard. And Joe Ghio's PHOTOGENIC (06), with Hager's CHASING RAINBOWS in its parentage, certainly is aptly named. Beautiful! And I can't help but mention one of Bruce Filardi's first introductions, PEWTER AND GOLD ('06), which had a gorgeous stalk here with three blooms open and multiple buds, and was holding up in the bad weather conditions very nicely.

I thoroughly enjoyed the beardless irises throughout the convention and spent a lot of time looking at them, and I also became to be a true fan of MTBs, but I used up all my garden time here looking at the tall bearded guest irises; so I'll have to come back some other trip and check

out the Ludis' personal collection of over 1200 named varieties. Thank you, John & Kay, for sharing your garden with us. And thanks also for being the chairman of "Reigning Irises."

Mount Pleasant Iris Farm (Chad Harris)

by Annette Milch, Kentucky

It was another rainy day at the Reigning Iris Convention. Chad Harris met us as we got off the bus. His real love is for the Japanese iris. He has been hybridizing Japanese Irises for 20 years. [He showed me PLEASANT EARLYBIRD (Harris '96), which I have in my personal collection. It is still the first JI to bloom in his garden. He is breeding for early bloom and form in Japanese Irises.] He is looking for bearded irises that won't rot in rain. Oregon gets lots of rain, and his garden in the mountains gets two to three times as much rainfall as the Portland area. His farm is at 650 ft. elevation. He has a lovely pond for his water iris collection, and he has a gentle slope for his tall bearded collection. Chad's first love is gardening. He likes estate type plantings. He plants to find the natural state and pure form. For him, bloom is secondary; structure of plant and color of foliage are primary. He likes winter-interest gardens, that is: different shrubs with berries.

Chad Harris garden includes 10 acres of the property's 75 acres. He looks for views and vistas with different textures. Form and texture are primary! He likes spotlights of blooms with always changing color. He started gardening when he was only five years old. Both of his grandparents were into gardening. Grandmother Sechler was a design judge. She taught him combinations of plants, such as spiky goes with large round plants, and how to look and play with texture of plants.

Chad has been working with Bonsai Plants for 35 years, having started some from seed. He grows native PCN, *Iris douglasiana*. He likes evergreen foliage, graceful foliage that is attractive all year long.

Chad started with *Iris japonica* – a species iris from Japan. He likes to put "hot points" in his estate gardening – that is, purple foliage or red foliage plants at various strategic points in the garden. He likes to create an Oriental feeling.

Chad's property provides magnificent views of the Columbia River Gorge. He has large plantings of trees as a backdrop for his other plantings. His rows are very wide and spacious. Everything was very tranquil and green. Every once in a while he had a small purple-foliaged tree as a highlight. He likes to vary the direction and slope of his green walkways. He likes to use an occasional Baltic stone, a native volcanic rock to offset the green and to add texture. He likes to place a flowering bush at strategic

places, when you round a corner of a pathway, you see in the distance the vista or view Chad has planned for you to see. It is breathtaking. Chad is a very gracious and inspiring host. This garden is a must-see.

Cooley's Garden

By Rita & Tom Gormley, Missouri

There's nothing more exciting than the anticipation of visiting a garden you've never seen before, and Cooley's Gardens was no exception.

We arrived on a breezy cloud-covered morning to be greeted by Rick Ernst, Larry Johnson, 500+ guest irises, hundreds of acres of commercial iris fields, and biscuits with gravy, bacon, sausage, eggs, catalogs, and coffee. The guest beds were laid out for maximum viewing pleasure, with the iris clumps spaced 2 ft. apart and 2 rows deep, separated by 5 ft. wide mulched paths between. By far, this was the best garden for detailed examination of the guest plants, with all plants meticulously groomed and prominently displayed.

Before we toured the guest beds, however, there was another row of beauties just across from the main building. All lined out and beautifully displayed were a half dozen restored bright red McCormick Farmall tractors. The 130s, 230s and Super A's dating from the early 1950s looked fantastic and photographed well.

At that point, being halfway between the guests and a hot country breakfast, I opted for a cup of coffee and hit the guest beds. Here, like everywhere else we saw it, SAILOR'S DREAM MTB (Fisher '04) was stunning in a large floriferous clump with flowers nicely spaced. No wonder it won the Cook Cup for the favorite out-of-region iris at the Convention! SPRINGTIME ANGEL (Niswonger '03) was a spun white confection of ruffles (both standards and falls) with a bit of lilac in the throat and white tipped yellow beards. HIGH CHAPARRAL (Schreiner '06) distinguished itself in many categories, form, substance, bud count and "knock your socks off" pretty. CARNIVAL CAROUSEL (Begley '05), with peachy pink standards, orange beards and heavily laced blue falls veined white with a pink flush, stood out from the crowd. Not to be outdone, CARNIVAL RIDE (Ernst '02) looked especially inviting when a chance ray of sun caught the gold-rimmed maroon falls and cream standards edged with gold.

Hooks, horns, spoons, and flounces were well represented through the efforts of Tom Burseen, his OSAY CANUC ('01) and AWESOME ALEX ('04) almost poked my eye out! Chadwick's OASIS SYDNEY ('04) had delightfully curved flounces that completed the rest of the flower. If you're looking for a really striking blue TB, you should

consider MISTER THREE WIGGLE (De La Motte '05). Between the cobalt falls and sky blue standards are exquisitely defined white haft marks surrounding an orange beard tipped blue.

After four passes through the guests, jotting down notes, taking pictures and trying to make "objective comparisons", we started to wander through the rest of the Cooley's facility. There were literally thousands of cut iris flowers arranged in five-gallon buckets for sale at the entrance gate, and more in the inside display area. Scores of iris design arrangements using antique frogs and McCoy dishes, saucers and bowls from the 1920s and '30s were artfully displayed "on the bench" there. Many thanks to Georgie Johnson for her incredible sense of form and color in creating these – they were an unexpected delight.

Continuing back outside into the permanent display beds, we were stopped short by the park-like setting where the irises were displayed. All the newer introductions and many of their classics were planted in raised stone beds, bringing the flowers to eye level and allowing the public to get "up close and personal" with some of the finest examples of iris hybridizing available anywhere. We were drawn from there through a gazebo-centered walkway to a large fountain area lined with azaleas and iris. At the left end is a gorgeous old storage building decked out with an operating water wheel, framed yet again by bright yellow irises. Further on and around another corner is the last raised stone bed, called the "Victory Garden". It is a freeform structure that, like the others, puts the flowers right in your face.

At this point we ran out of iris, but there was a less traveled path behind equipment shed. It was here we made the acquaintance of three huge geese that were nervously looking forward to the holidays. After offering our condolences, we headed back towards the breakfast pavilion when someone blew a whistle and folks started moving towards the busses.

Our thanks to Rick & Kati Ernst and Larry & Georgie Johnson for an exceptional opportunity. Your garden and people are first rate. The memories of our first Cooley's tour will always be with us.

The Collier Garden

by Jill Bonino, California

Kath, David, and their son Thomas welcomed us to their garden in the afternoon of the first day of the garden tours. The sky had been getting grayer since the morning visit at the Harris garden, but there was only about a three-minute shower during our visit. It was just enough to leave everything freshly washed and time to grab a couple of cookies under the refreshment tent. The Colliers designed and built

their solar house in 1994, and the garden is only 6 years old. Kath works at the U.S. Government Regional Eco System Office, and Dave has retired to run the nursery. All three work in the garden. They also raise nearly 500 orchids. These are plant-loving people, not "just" irisarians.

The Collier garden was a nice contrast to the larger commercial gardens on the tour. Located in the Sandy River Valley, their two-acre space is "out in the country" and attracts wildlife such as cougars, elk, and deer. Kath mentioned that they have trouble with rabbits eating their plants. These animals may be cute but they are often deadly to your prized horticulture.

The Guest Iris area in the front of their house was the newest area of the garden. Oblong beds and some rectangular beds were configured, in a way, like an English knot garden. Each bed was edged in railroad ties, and walking paths were made out of sawdust. Large letters of the alphabet were placed in each area so it was easy to find a particular iris. Closer to the house and around the back were more mature plantings of hostas, azaleas, rhododendrons and 18 Japanese maples. Lots of ornamental garden art added a creative dimension to the various garden areas.

The Collier garden experiences all four seasons, so all kinds of iris do well. Being from Southern California where freezing temperatures are a rarity, I really enjoyed the blooming Siberian iris in the garden. Just as I entered the garden I spotted a clump at peak bloom of BABY SISTER (McEwen '86) and returned to look at it more than once. Dave Niswonger's SIB-SPEC crosses CHINESE LAVENDER and CHINESE BLUE were in full bloom. They provided a perfect foreground for a view of the front garden with a gazing ball. Also, the President's Cup Winner HIGH CHAPARRAL (Schreiner '06) was looking lovely. BRUSSELS ('04), by Tom Johnson, showed off its darktop color despite the gray clouds.

The Collier Garden was a place I could spend many a tranquil afternoon with a good book. It was a pleasant, meandering garden. You could stroll around and see different plants and views from different angles. I enjoyed its many curves. It will be a carefully "faceted" garden when mature, and is true to the Collier's name for it as a "diamond in the rough".

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

The report on the garden of Barbara & Terry Aitken will appear in the January issue of the *Bulletin*.

The Historic Iris Collection at Aitken's

by Dorothy Stiefel, New York

During the soggy week of May 21-27 in the Portland, OR, area, I was happy to be in the right place at the right time at least once. This stroke of luck enabled me to take notes on Bruce Filardi's planting of historic and other rare irises without having to juggle notebook, pencil, camera and umbrella at the same time!

The skies were threatening and gray, but the rain held off as I arrived at this planting on the grounds of the Aitken residence in Vancouver, Washington. I had seen the Aitken garden in 1994, and the encroachment of development was much evident as Bruce greeted me and pointed out the beds of irises, alphabetically arranged and cascading down a hillside. The irises had been recently "vetted" by HIPS I.D. Chairman Phil Edinger, and it was both comforting and vexing to see that some had labels turned backwards... an indication of misidentification. Comforting because someone else shared the frustration; vexing because it's a problem that occurs frequently.

The irises were well-grown and near peak bloom. Near the beginning of the alphabetical sequence was a series of "BENTONS," by English hybridizer Cedric Morris, from BENTON BLUEJOHN (1951) to BENTON PEARL (1945); most of which are not easily obtained in the United States.

BIG BLACK BUMBLEBEE (Danielson 1966) had dwindled to just a nub of a plant, and I sympathized as a lover of aril irises but also living in a climate quite inhospitable to them. Two historic standards, ruffly pink CHANTILLY (Hall 1943) and bold red DAUNTLESS (Connell 1929), were performing well. Bruce posed for a photograph behind two other historic standards, which he said were two of his favorites: TRUE CHARM (Sturtevant 1920) and TRUE DELIGHT (Sturtevant 1924).

It was reassuring to see COLOR CARNIVAL (DeForest 1950) appearing just as it does in my garden; a riotous pink with splashes of violet-purple at the hafts and cascading down the falls. GAY PAREE (Plough 1956) was another old friend, with crisp white standards and white falls heavily overlaid chartreuse/gold. GRAND WALTZ (Schreiner 1970), a light lavender-orchid self with extreme crimping and lacing, can still hold its own with the "moderns," and was proving it.

MELODY (Sass 1955) is a WABASH (Williamson 1936) look-alike, and looked **very** much like it, to my eyes. Fortunately it does not have pbf (purple-based foliage) and WABASH does, so in a clump at least, the two may be differentiated. Checking MELODY's parentage, I found that it is recorded as (AMIGO x WABASH), so the

resemblance is understandable.

It is always exciting to see “new” historic irises with names attached, and I was fortunate to find many. SANDALWOOD (H.P. Sass 1937), a buff-beige bloom with iridescent falls, resembled an iris I have been trying to I.D. for some time. YVES LASSAILLY (Cayeux 1928) was an eye-catcher, an opal white with a faint bluish sheen on the falls and a yellow beard. The form of the flower was tailored, with just a bit of a lilting wave to both standards and falls... very pleasing! MAGENTA (Cayeux 1927) was perfectly named.

Bruce's garden also featured irises that were not “historic” but were otherwise noteworthy. There were a series of “green” irises... GREEN SHIMMER, GREEN PASTURE, GREEN-EYED LADY, SEAFOAM GREEN, etc. To this irisarian, they all appeared to be various shades of greenish **yellow!**

Amid the buzz of construction saws and the clatter of power nailers, it was nice to view these old irises and step back momentarily, at least in thought, to a time when the property was much more private and life seemed to move at a slower pace... even if it was only 12 years ago. Thank you for your diligence in presenting this collection, Bruce! 🌸



CherylDeaton, KellyNorris and JeannePlank, AIS 2006 Convention, Portland Oregon.

What Fun to Be Registrar!

by Judy Nunn, Oregon

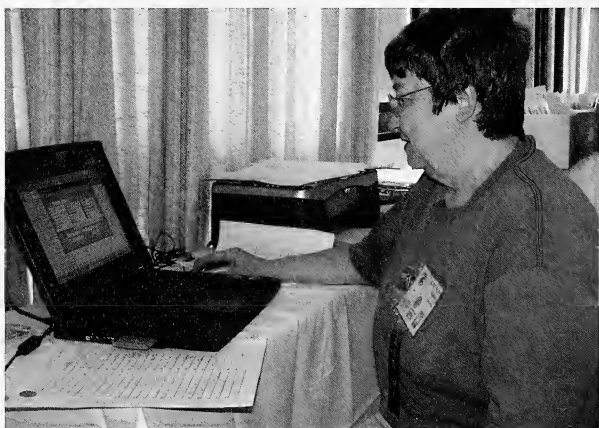
In 1994, the job of AIS Convention Registrar sort of fell into my lap. It was a challenge, as I had not done that before. I was working at Cooley's at the time, and all the registrations were sent to the office so I could open them there. I also did my regular job, processing iris orders. When it came time for the actual convention, I was needed in the office, so I was not able to enjoy the bus tours. Of course, all of the Cooley and Ernst families attended the banquets.

When I learned that we were going to host the AIS Convention in 2006, I jumped up and volunteered to be the Registrar again. I had retired from Cooley's and had lots of time to devote to the job. Up front, however, I specified to chairman John Ludi that I wanted to ride the bus on the garden tours. That seemed no problem, as he assigned Keith McNames to the registration table to hand out packets and other duties.

I set up the database as I had in 1994, and was very antsy to get our registration form completed and into the *Bulletin* so we could "begin"! I didn't realize how much figuring there was to setting prices, so I had to bide my time. Once that was completed, I was off and running!

Oh, to get the mail every day to see who was coming. Why hadn't so-and-so registered? I know they plan on coming! So many times I thought that. Eventually, that person's registration form arrived and I breathed a sigh of relief. Months went by, my file got bigger and bigger! I had to buy a second 3-ring binder and nearly filled it by the time April arrived.

Finally we were done - and I moved all my stuff to the hotel in Portland: computer, printer, files, both binders, and a multitude of paper, ink cartridges, etc. I helped Keith at the registration table nearly every day. It was so much fun to see old friends, people you see only at AIS conventions, and of course to meet new ones. My




computer and printer seemed invaluable (especially when it came to making copies), and the actual registration forms were there for reference, in case anyone wondered which side tour they had actually requested. To get as many on each bus on the optional tours, some were given their second choice.

Meeting those from foreign countries was most thrilling. The two ladies from Italy were quite late in registering, and had made several phone calls to my house to get things settled. I'd received a picture of Manfred Beer with Bob Van Liere. I printed it out and had it ready for Manfred to autograph. I gave him a copy also, and he seemed most pleased. John Turner from Australia also had phoned me months earlier to ask questions about registration. Meeting him and his wife Rosemary was another treat.

I'd arranged for Wednesday "off" so I could take a few people to see Keith Keppel's garden, since his was not on the official tour. Once the word got around, I ended up with about four carloads heading south. That was fun! Of course you can't really caravan on the freeway, so we relied on cell phones to get us off at the right exit and meet at the produce stand.

And the buses! I'd been on AIS convention bus tours before, but not in my "own" territory! This was fun! I had never been to the gardens of Chad Harris, John Ludi, the Aitkens, Colliers, or Plotners. What a trip! Of course I've been to Cooley's, Schreiner's and Mid-America several times since I live so close, but I still enjoyed visiting.

So my advice to all of you: If you've never been a Registrar, try it. You just might have the time of your life! 

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A Second Helping: More Food for Thought

A Response to George Waters' Article on Iris Culture

by Terry Aitken, Washington State

Those of us in Portland last spring ('05) were aware that Olive Rice-Waters had serious health problems from which she was not likely to recover. It was a sad time for all of us and a dilemma for the AIS. It was "calendar time," and we realized that there just might not be a 2006 edition. I contacted George to see if I could collect whatever pictures he might have had as candidates for the calendar project. When I went to visit, I was very impressed with the jewel of a home that they had created in a heavily wooded ravine south of Portland, Oregon. How sad that Olive and George only got to enjoy it together for a few years! It was a magnificent living environment. George showed me the garden irises and shared with me much of the information that was in the article in the July *Bulletin*. The irises were languishing from rot and extensive leaf spot. The diploids were faring noticeably better than the newer tetraploids.


George's garden was located on a heavily wooded hillside. Leaf spot was rampant, as it would be in any environment with limited air circulation. George shared with me that the iris beds were virgin soils (to irises) and that the beds were supplemented with compost. My observation was that the rich soils produced considerable lush growth early in the season. That, combined with any late frosts, produces tissue damage and the resultant rot. Being surrounded by tall trees, the plants were able to bloom but were reaching for light. The result was slightly spindly bloom stems and tall foliage. I am of the opinion that bacterial rot and leaf spot are induced by environmental conditions (temperature and humidity) and no amount of cleanup will change that. Disease resistance will vary from plant to plant. Over time, we will have better plants.

George also mentions that the old diploids were surviving with less maintenance and damage. My theory on that (see chapter 3 in *The World of Irises*) is that the diploid species evolved in northern Europe under more severe cold and wet conditions, whereas the newer tetraploids hybrids evolved from species in the eastern Mediterranean climates, which are hotter and drier. In *The World of Irises*, Bee

Warburton points out that early hybridizers did, unknowingly, cross diploids with tetraploids, and besides sterile triploids, some fertile tetraploids did emerge. These were the forerunners of our modern tetraploid TBs.

George's next issue – should hybridizers be selecting for “low maintenance” (no rot or leaf spot) plants? That answer has to be – emphatically – YES. But the solution is not that simple. Hybridizers in southern California cannot select for leaf spot or virus resistance, since they do not normally see these problems. Hybridizers in New England probably don't get to appreciate the large brilliant flowers from California. I have written numerous articles on “CLIMATE TOLERANCE”. An example would be to breed the sturdy Middle Atlantic irises from Sterling Innerst with the exotic colors and forms from Joe Ghio in his coastal Mediterranean climate in California. Selected seedlings out of large populations stand a fair chance of better “climate tolerance”. Certainly more hybridizers need to develop that mind set. The motivation is there for hybridizers who want to win awards to develop plants that grow well all over the country. It is a worthy challenge.

George touches on the subject of Regional Test Gardens. This concept has largely floundered except for the one in Colorado Springs. The problem is garden maintenance. It is a static solution to a dynamic problem. Test gardens have evolved into Regional Tours and National Conventions; guest plants are on display at different locations, usually members' gardens. Over time, astute judges around the world will filter out the better plants AND flowers for the award system.

George offers the opinion that hybridizers select for “pretty flowers” and ignore plant health. While I agree that there is plenty of room for improved plant selections, I have talked to many hybridizers who do watch plant health. Plants are not protected from diseases and survive on minimum maintenance. The hunt for “survivors” goes on in many a seedling patch. If critical selections of seedlings are made out of large populations, there is no reason to assume that an inferior product will evolve. Much of the process is in the eye of the selector. As I reminisce about plants we grew 40 years ago, I am convinced that we have made considerable progress both in disease resistance and in superior flowers. There is still much room for improvement, and hybridizers need to get on board. 

And Another Helping:

Further Comments on George Waters'

"Food for Thought" Article

by Anner Whitehead, Virginia

I expect some readers won't find Mr. Waters' article to be great fun. I do think it is essential that persons feel free to open discussions on these sorts of problems, especially those they consider "inevitable," but susceptible to amelioration. In some quarters there is, I think, a tendency to consider anyone who raises an awkward issue not quite an Iris team player. Then mutterings about negativity or whatnot start, typically, I have observed, coming from some source whose own foibles would exasperate a wooden Indian. Nobody signed a loyalty oath or a Pollyanna pledge when they joined AIS, and we can't learn anything from each other if we won't speak out.

I think it well the Editor listened to George Waters, and published this distinguished senior irisarian's concerns. I am not sure they would have seemed as authoritative, and of such poignancy, coming from another source. I am distraught that Mr. Waters is having such disappointments, although I am not confident his analysis of the situation has yielded unassailable conclusions.


Our Editor must be saluted for recognizing the significance of this article. Bruce Filardi has brought a richer variety to the *Bulletin*, and I am enjoying it. From time to time we have heard a lot about making room in the *Bulletin* for more interesting articles, but, as Clarence Mahan mentioned back in 1996, the real problem has not been finding room in the *Bulletin*, it has been finding those good articles in the first place. I have never forgotten that.

What captured my attention in Mr. Waters' piece was his observation: *"I have not studied plant breeding, but what I have read on the subject suggests that selection over many generations for decorative features inevitably lessens plants' immunity to diseases and pests."* He opines that the conditions in the hybridizers' gardens may "mask" problems which manifest later in the care of "ordinary gardeners." There is some talk of test gardens of the past, and so forth.

I wonder. I wonder a lot about that strong word, "inevitably." I wonder if Mr. Waters' observation is actually sound. I am ignorant,

but I do believe the situation must be very complicated, indeed. Aside from anything else, the pests and diseases are also changing, adapting over many generations, or so I'd expect. No entity in nature, no phenomenon, no condition, exists in isolation. I also wonder who those ordinary gardeners are, and what their expectations and skills are presumed to be.

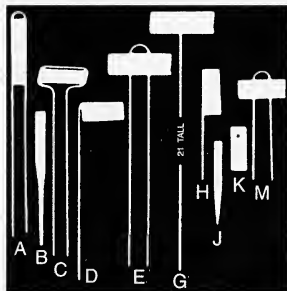
I'll tell you, there is some question in my mind as to whether we should really expect the preponderance of hybrid irises to grow well everywhere, even with the very best of culture. Were it not for a handful of bearded historics, not all of which are diploids, which, to their everlasting glory, do very nearly that, albeit not, in my experience, without leaf spot, I don't know that we'd even think such a thing possible. We certainly would not assert such is the case with any other group of intensively hybridized ornamental perennial garden plants. Nor, I observe, is it invariably true of many of the non-hybridized ornamental plants, forms of species of many genera, available for our horticultural consideration.

Which is not to say I don't think Mr. Waters has raised a useful point: When it comes to pest and disease resistance, more is better, all around, on all scores, and always will be so. 

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Harvesting a Field of Dreams

by Pat Otterness, Virginia

The Dream

Last night I had a dream, and in the dream I was going back to school, entering my first class. On a table outside the door was a stack of books, presumably intended for the students. I picked one up. Actually, I picked up two by accident, but decided to keep the extra one to share with anyone who came into class unprepared.

In the classroom, most of the seats faced a large blackboard. But in the center of the room, the teacher's favorite students were seated in a circle, facing inwards. They each had a book that was different from mine, and they had their heads together, speaking in low voices among themselves. I left the room several times to search for a book like theirs, but such a book could not be found. The book I had was filled with pretty pictures, but not much substance.

When at last the teacher entered, I was told to go to another room, was called away for bureaucratic form-filling. By the time I completed this task, it was time for my class to end. It was then that I first realized I had no idea what my schedule was, no idea where I should go next. So I woke up.

Maybe it's because I come from a scientific community, rather than a commercial one, but I have long been dismayed by the paucity of genetic information available to AIS members. When I first joined the American Iris Society, I searched in vain for someone who could/would tell me what was known about iris genetics. Has no one broached the subject since Sturtevant? Or is every morsel of information considered a deep, dark secret, to be shared only amongst the favored few, who are at the center, and face inwards, talking only among themselves? More importantly, if this is true, is it because the knowledge is closely guarded for commercial reasons, or is it because the other students are uninterested, and want only a book of pretty pictures? I am still hungry for knowledge. *I want more!*

The Reality

Nothing is more frustrating to me than believing there is vital information available that is being kept from me -- except maybe the

awful knowledge that vital information has been *lost* because no one ever took the time to write it down. Whether we like to admit it or not, most of our experienced TB breeders are getting a little long in the tooth. For that matter, like many irisarians, I'm a bit past the first bloom of youth myself. I can already see my hybridizing future limited by lifespan, energy, and one more thing. Don't tell anybody, but memory seems to be slipping away as well. *Who knew?*

I have been assured by Keith Keppel and others that no one is guarding the secrets of successful hybridizing: no one is trying to keep that knowledge from us. Quite the contrary! Our aging breeders are *eager* to share their knowledge with us, and to oversee the progress of young hybridizing hopefuls as they blossom into successful and innovative iris breeders. But there's a catch (*isn't there always?*). The key to unlocking the treasure in their collective minds is this *1kfi 1th 1i 1h1t 1t1i f*

A Solution

I have a background in genetics, and eleven years of experience breeding tall bearded iris (*a foot in both camps*). I also have an aptitude for record-keeping, and for sharing what I learn. I write, and because I write, I can be -- a conduit! (*Bruce has a whip and a chair.*) Here's what we propose to do:

You, the **readers**, the ones who are hungry for more, will **submit your questions to me** (*or to Bruce Filardi, if you feel more comfortable trusting the extent of your ignorance to a person you've actually heard of before.*) Then, together, Bruce and I will combine our talents to hone a list of useful questions out of the ensuing hodgepodge of titillating responses.

Careful decisions will be made, so that no one hybridizer is overburdened with questions. Topics relating to a specific breeder's area of special expertise will be offered first to him or her, then perhaps to a few others. Attempts will be made to fit their answers into a genetic framework.

Let me say, right up front, that we're not asking you for questions about how to pollinate, or how to germinate seeds. Those are basic questions, and they *will* be addressed. What we want from you hungry readers/breeders is questions you have about how to breed a special color, or form, or pattern ... how to take that sorry seedling you love (because it is yours), and through careful breeding, turn it into something others will love, too.

Another thing we're hoping for is your observations. We want to hear about puzzling things that crop up in your gardens. For instance, this year I had a re-select with four standards, four falls, four beards ... nicely symmetrical ... on every *terminal* bloom. It was otherwise

normal. I could almost swear I saw it do that once before, but I paid little attention, assuming it was just a developmental anomaly. *Maybe it wasn't.* All of the other buds lower on the stalks formed normal tripartite blooms. Only the terminal blooms were unusual. *Why?*

Anyone who pays attention in the garden notices such conundrums. Remember the children's picture puzzle asking: *What doesn't belong?* If you see something in your iris garden that *doesn't belong*, I want to hear about it. Maybe together we can make sense of it. Maybe not. (*Get a picture of it if you can.*) We need to get it out there and open it up for discussion.

We're not just asking *Joe Reader* and *Mary Gardener*, we're asking everyone, from our youngest hybridizer hopefuls to our most prestigious and experienced breeders and commercial growers: Give us your observations! Give us your questions! If possible, postulate some answers! A mind is a terrible thing to lose ... and so far there's no way to save the brains of our aging hybridizers for future reference. One day, we'll wake up and they'll be gone. It will be too late then for bemoaning the questions that went unasked. I beg each and every one of you to become a part of this research project, so that we can create more than a book of pretty pictures with little substance. Together, we can make a handbook for hybridizing that will become a classic! *Or ... failing that ... we can have one heck of a good time trying!*

Send your questions, thoughts, postulations, and recriminations to:

Pat Otterness

or

Bruce Filardi

4664 Davis Creek Lane

bfilardi@comcast.net



Lovington, VA 22949

Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens, 2006

Colorado Springs, Colorado

by Carol & Russ Eacker, Directors

With all the irises judged in the gardens, it is time to report on the winners. Each year we try to let everyone know which irises did their best in the high altitude trial gardens. Sometimes with the kind of weather we have it is a challenge to get the irises to bloom and show off, but every once in while they get the job done. The following are the ones that showed off this year.

The third year big scorers in Tall Bearded are [1] **WINDJAMMER SEAS (L. Johnson) (Dr. Loomis winner)**, [2] **SPEAKING FREELY** (Hager), [3] **IWAN'A IGUANA** (Kasperek), [4] **LIBERTY SONG** (L. Johnson), [5] **PRAYER CUSHION** (Magee).

Third year Standard Dwarf Bearded – [1] **YELLOWJACKET STING (Niswonger)**, [2] **LEMON NEON** (Strohman), [3] **LITTLE MISS CAPE** (Niswonger), [4] **SUN TREE** (Strohman), [5] **BLUBERRY TART** (Chapman).

Third year Intermediate Bearded – [1] **END ZONE (Stahly)**, [2] seedling #20 E 2 (Crump), [3] **FAIRIE COURT** (Crump)

Third Year Miniature Dwarf Bearded – [1] **KRISHNAJI (Magee)**, [2] **AFRICAN WINE** (Kasperek)

Second year Tall Bearded – [1] **SOLOMON'S TREASURE (Van Lieere) (Dr. Loomis winner)**, [2] **CHINOOK WINDS** (T. Johnson), [3] **DUTCHMAN'S DREAM** (clump 2) (Van Lieere), [4] seedling #98-134 (Van Lieere), [5] **DUTCHMAN'S DREAM** (clump 1) (Van Lieere).


Second year Standard Dwarf Bearded – [1] **BOURGEOIS** (clump 2) **Black**, [2] **FIRES OF FIJI** (Black), [3] seedling #02-SN-1 (Corson), [4] **CAT'S EYE** (Black), [5] **BOURGEOIS** (clump 1) (Black).

Second Year Intermediate Bearded – [1] **SPICED PEACHES (Black)**, [2] **IN A FLASH** (Black)

First year Tall Bearded – [1] **SOLO FLIGHT (L. Johnson)**, [2] **One Small Step** (Ernst), [3] **Waimea Canyon Sunrise** (L. Johnson), [4] seedling #L-36-A (Hedgcock), [5] **Looky Loo** (1) (Ernst).

First year Standard Dwarf Bearded – [1] seedling 98-B25-5

(Chapman), [2] sdlg. 03PS2-5 (2) (Corson),
 [3] sdlg. 03PS5-13 (clump 2) (Corson), [4] sdlg. 03PS5-13 (clump 1),
 [5] 03PS5-19 (1) (Corson)

If it weren't for the wonderful cooperation of all the hybridizers there would be no trial gardens, so when you have the opportunity, please tell them how much we appreciate their help. We encourage all interested hybridizers to send rhizomes to us for the Loomis Trials. There is no cost to enter; we just ask that you donate your rhizomes to us when the Trial period is over, as the sale of those rhizomes is our only fundraiser for the garden. For further information, please contact reacker@juno.com. 



Paul Black's striking HIGH CLASS won the second place award in Florence this year. It was mis-identified as "High Drama" in the color section of the July issue of the *Bulletin*. Our congratulations to Paul, and apologies for the error.

A Century of Iris and More...

by Catherine Long Gates, Colorado

Back in the Gay Nineties (1898) Doc thumped me, listened in with his stethoscope, looked glum, and said: "Go west. Try Colorado. You might live several years in that climate."

Several years later this is how J.D. Long related how a diagnosis of tuberculosis brought him from the farm he grew up on near Mason City, Iowa, to Colorado. We'll let him tell more of the story in his words:



J.D. Long in a field of irises.

Doc had a theory that it might be best to climb that mile of altitude slowly. Hence the prairie schooner voyages.

E.H. Mottinger, alias Weary Willie, was an experienced navigator, having sailed from western Nebraska to northern Iowa.

So, in early September it was "Anchors Aweigh" for us. We set sail from Mason City, Iowa, for the port of Pike's Peak.

E.H. sang many cowboy songs with gusto as we crossed the lone prairie for he had been "an old cow hand" in the short-grass country.

For me it was "Pike's Peak - and Busted." I secured a "position" working for my board on a cattle ranch at the foot of Pike's Peak - right between the toes of this super giant.

Though much of my time was spent in the saddle, I was no Gene Autrey. I'd "claw leather" when the going got rough.

After a year and a half of cow punching, I came to Boulder to take a better position on a ranch 4 miles east of town. Salary, \$1.25 for a ten-hour day!

Next job, clerking in a novelty store, Noah's Ark. Later I secured part interest in the store. Still later evolved the J.D. Long Seed Co. from the seed department of the Ark.

Since 1908 we have sent out several million catalogues. Now have satisfied perennial customers in every state.

1905 was the year that J.D. was able, with the financial backing of prominent



J.D. Long in a field of irises.

Boulderite Isaac T. Earl, to purchase Noah's Ark. It was the same year he formed another "partnership" by marrying fellow Iowan, Cora Curtis. Cora had come west to homestead in Wyoming. Their union produced three children, Carleton, Everett, and Elizabeth. All three children grew up with the business, particularly after 1916 when the Longs purchased a home and a few acres north of Boulder. While the retail store remained in downtown Boulder until the late 1940's, the growing fields have been at their present location of 3240 Broadway since 1916.

The J.D. Long Seed Company carried both flower and vegetable seeds. To promote business the company sponsored contests for finest flowers and largest vegetables grown from their seed. In 1908 here were some of the prizes offered:

For the Largest Pumpkin:

- First Prize: One 8 D grade Disston Carpenter's saw, value \$1.65
- Second Prize: One Madole hammer, best hammer made, value 65 cents

For the Largest Water Melon:

- First Prize: One large decorated Haviland China platter (just right for a large melon sliced for the table) value \$2.50
- Second Prize: One No. 1 Universal meat chopper, value \$1.25

For the Largest Turnip:

- First Prize: One large "Rookwood Blend" jardiniere, value \$1.90
- Second Prize: One boy's express wagon, value \$1.25

For the Largest Six Ears Sweet Corn:

- First Prize: One complete home cobbler's outfit including, tacks, leather, etc. value \$1.75
- Second Prize: One large granite dish pan, value 95 cents

J.D. Long increasingly emphasized flowers, both seeds and plants. Pansies, Sweet Peas, Dahlias, and Peonies were some of the specialties. Starting in the 1920's more and more gladiolas were grown and by the 1930's glads were the primary crop. J.D. became a respected gladiolus judge and was awarded the New England Gladiolus Society's Gold Medal in 1941. The printed citation described J.D.'s contribution, "For continued service to gladiolus by way of original, valuable and progressively up-to-date cultural directions given not only in readable language but with a humor widely known and much appreciated; to a man who sold his tremendous and beneficent personality as well as bulbs and seeds". J.D. distinguished his catalog business by adding a great deal of cultural information. He included small booklets with orders to provide useful information in a folksy and humorous style. The titles alone can elicit a smile: Strong Talk About Mild Onions, Glad Gossip, Pansy Pointers, and Dahlia Don'ts. Bits of sage gardening advice were meted out in short slogans- Weed 'em and Reap, Pester the Pestiferous Pests, Watch Your Step When Ground Wet, Park Your Hens at Home, and Use the Hoe More and the Hose Less.

Despite that admonition to use the "hose less" there was always the need for a reliable water supply. This was particularly true during the years of growing glads. J.D.'s son Everett, who officially joined his father in the business after graduation from the University of Colorado in 1934, took the water resource search to heart. When Everett married Anne McLaughlin in 1940 they spent a good part of their honeymoon searching the mountains west of Boulder for a suitable site to build a dam. After selecting and filing on Upper Woodland Lake, work was begun on Skyscraper Reservoir. Building a reservoir at over 11,000' in the Colorado

R o c k i e s
provided lots of
challenges.
Much of the
construction
w a s
accomplished
after World
War II and the
dam was
completed in
1951. As the
business grew
less glads and
more iris the
need for



Everett & Elizabeth Long with dahlias



J.D. Long and 'Zebra' iris

additional water decreased and the reservoir was sold to the City of Boulder.

During World War II Ev served in the Army Air Corps as a primary flight instructor in the PT-19. For

a time he owned his own airplane and used it to conduct business with the midwest nurseries that Long's Gardens supplied with wholesale iris. J.D. died in 1948 (a 50 year testament to the Doc's advice) and Ev gradually phased out the glads and the seed business in 1968. Ev felt iris were ideally suited to the high & dry climate of Colorado. The iris were less labor intensive than the glads since they didn't need to be harvested and stored and they required much less water.

Interest in iris hybridizing became intense in the United States. Many more varieties in a wider color range were made available and it became feasible to specialize in just iris. In the 1916 catalog eight iris varieties were offered for sale for 15 cents each or \$1.20 per dozen. Perhaps you'll recognize some familiar names in the list: Flavescens, Florentina, Gracchus, Madame Chereau, Plumeri, Rigolette, Spectabilis, and Tinaea. In the 1932 catalog there were over 75 varieties for sale with most priced between 18 cents and \$1.00. The 1927 American Dykes Medal winner San Francisco was selling for \$2.00 and the new Sass introduction, Pink Satin, commanded the hefty price of \$17.50. By the late 1940's a separate large format Long's Gardens iris catalog was produced annually. The 1950 catalog lists over 200 varieties with prices ranging from 35 cents for Buechley Giant, Dauntless and William Mohr to \$12.50 for Dr. Loomis' Spanish Peaks and \$15.00 for the Sass 1946 introduction, Rainbow Room. Quite a number of varieties were pictured in color. Ev took most of the photographs for the catalogs and did his own color developing. This way if the photo didn't turn out to his satisfaction there was still time to try again before the blossoms faded. The last color catalog in 1967 featured four introductions from Dr. John R. Durrance: Azure Apogee, Colorado

Skies, Judges' Choice, and Samoan Holiday priced at \$15.00 to \$25.00. The price of William Mohr had almost tripled, to \$1.00.

Long's Gardens has had the pleasure of introducing new iris varieties for a number of hybridizers. One of the best known was Dr. Phillip Loomis of Colorado Springs. His wonderful arilbred Elmohr, introduced by Long's in 1942, won the American Dykes Medal in 1945. Another Dykes medal winning hybridizer, Agnes Whiting of Mapleton, Iowa, released some of her creations through Long's. In more recent years some of the other award winning hybridizers who have introduced their beauties through Long's are Jack Durrance, Tom Magee, Joe Hoage, Ray Lyons, Carl Jorgensen, David Miller, Frank Foster, Mike Moller, Lois Olson, and Rob Stetson.

Long's still sells iris by mail order through a descriptive catalog. A greater percentage of the business currently is conducted through dig-it-yourself operations at the farm every spring. Folks enjoy digging the iris while in bloom and this has proved successful with local customers for the last 35 years or so. Many people just come to enjoy the iris blossoms and to "take a step back in time". Much of the equipment and buildings haven't changed appreciably in the last 50 years.

Long's Gardens continues on in 2005, its 100th year of business in Boulder. The business of cultivating the plants and caring for the plants is now carried on by Ev & Anne's daughter Catherine and her husband Dennis. Lots of able assistance is provided by Catherine's sister Margaret. Their story is still unfolding, but they are certainly grateful J.D. heeded the doctor's advice and headed to Colorado. Stay tuned for the next 100 years. ❧

This article appeared originally in The Newsletter of Region 20 (Colorado) of the American Iris Society; reprinted with permission.



J.D., Everett & Elizabeth Long with strawberries

Minutes of the AIS

Portland, Oregon, May 22 & 23, 2006

President Jeanne Plank called to order the Spring Meeting of the AIS Board of Directors at 1:10pm on Monday, May 22, 2006. A listing of attendees is included with the full minutes.

The Digest Minutes of the Minneapolis, Minnesota meeting were approved as published in the January 2006 AIS Bulletin, page 105. One correction was noted to the Full Minutes, whereby three attendees of the Board meeting were listed mistakenly from Region 14 instead of correctly from Region 18. The full minutes were approved with the noted correction.

Action taken was as follows:

- Mike Lowe was approved as Parliamentarian for the meeting.
- Susan Boyce was approved as Recording Secretary.
- John Jones was approved as Motion Monitor.

The following interim email action was affirmed:

- Authorized reprinting of 2,000 Basic Iris Culture booklets.
- Reduced the price of the 2006 AIS calendar, when purchased at the AIS Portland convention to \$1.00 each.

Reports:

General Secretary: Patricia Randall verified the arrival of the Dykes Medal, and confirmed that check endorsement stamps were ordered and sent to those chairmen as required.

Treasurer: Jill Bonino reported that the annual AIS treasury audit performed at the close of the fiscal year Sept. 30, 2005 resulted in a good report. Wendy Boyce, who performed the audit, also prepared the end of the year fiscal tax return for the AIS and reported no taxes due. Both services came in under budget.

At Bonino's suggestion, the Board approved the establishment of a Financial Advisory Committee to work with the Treasurer. Appointed to the committee were Jill Bonino, chair; Jay Hudson, immediate past Treasurer; Bob Plank, AIS Legal Advisor; and Dr. E. Roy Epperson, AIS 1st Vist President.

Bonino on behalf of AIS thanked regions and clubs who donated money toward the Insurance Fund.

Advertising Editors: Margaret & George Sutton reported the need to have ads submitted earlier by Bulletin advertisers. An ad hoc committee was formed to propose incentives that would encourage advertisers to submit advertising material earlier. Later in the meeting, speaking for the committee, G. Sutton presented the following proposal which received Board approval: *That two identical color ads in the AIS Bulletin purchased and paid for in advance in a calendar year merit a 10% discount for each ad.

Membership Secretary: Tom Gormley reported AIS membership down by 202 members, but because of the April 1, 2005 dues increase \$24,100 of additional revenue was generated, helping to offset the loss from the membership drop.

A discussion concerned with gaining new members produced several suggestions. Pries recommended and the board approved: *That the AIS join the Garden Writers Association of America and appoint a committee to generate the necessary supporting material.

Concerning the feasibility of AIS e-memberships, Epperson recommended and the board approved: *That the Board authorize an ad hoc Membership Advisory Committee to study e-memberships and e-services and report to the AIS Board.

Registrar/Recorder: Mike & Anne Lowe reported that the number of 2006 registrations is up from a year ago. The 2005 Registration and Introductions (R&I)

booklet was the largest yet and required a reduction in the font size. M. Lowe warned that future R&I booklets might have to use the more costly perfect binding in order to maintain a readable font size. Another solution is to increase the size of the booklet pages. It was recommended this be given further consideration.

Recording Secretary: Susan Boyce reported that the recording machine, purchased by the Lowes during A. Lowe's tenure as Recording Secretary, was purchased by the AIS at a very reduced price for use by those serving as the Recording Secretary.

Publication/Sales Directors: John & Kay Ludi reported that the 2,000 copies of Basic Iris Culture booklet were reprinted. J. Ludi recommended that the current BIC edition be reprinted for another four years. Excess bulletins on hand number 7,000. At present prices, each surplus shipment of 10 represents a loss of \$3.00. The Board approved Ludi's recommendation: *That the AIS Board set the fee for selling outdated bulletins at \$10.00 for 25 bulletins, and \$15.00 for 50 bulletins, with these prices becoming effective July 2006. Also recommended and approved: *That the Storefront sell the 2006 AIS calendar in groups of 10 for \$13.00.

Operations Manual: Epperson reported that the committee is continuing work on the changes for the Operations Manual.

Non-profit Incorporation/501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status: Bob Plank noted that those who attend Board Meetings in an official or representative capacity may deduct the expenses incurred to attend such meetings when itemizing their Federal income returns.

Race Track Design: John Jones stated that work on the AIS Logo image is still ongoing.

CD Creation: John Jones recommended and it was approved: *That the ad hoc committee for CD creations be dissolved and removed from consideration.

Affiliates: Brad Kasperek reported 179 affiliates, one less than last year at this time.

Awards: Roy Epperson stated that a second (purple) ballot was required to correct an omission error on the first (red) ballot. The second ballot was printed and mailed to voting judges, at no cost to the AIS.

Calendars: Terry Aitken announced that the 2007 AIS calendar should be available through the AIS Storefront around September.

Convention Liaison: Paul Gossett cautioned that there is no national convention site commitment for 2010, but two possible hosts are considering submitting bids.

Electronic Services: John Jones stated that the Iris Register now has 243 subscribers, an increase of 30 from last year. A website page for joining AIS online should be up and running within the month. Jones recommended and the board approved: *That the AIS Board of Directors authorize an annual stipend for the AIS Webmaster of \$2,000; that \$1,000 of the stipend to be provided from the Iris Register revenues in the Electronic Services restricted fund and the remaining portion of the stipend be provided from the general fund retroactive to the beginning of 2006; that a contract be executed describing the services to be performed.

Donations: Donna James noted that the majority of this year's donation dollars came from Affiliates, Regions, and Sections to help defray the rising cost of the AIS Liability Insurance.

Exhibitions: Jim & Janet Giles reported the approval of 163 shows as of the week prior to the convention. Four shows had to be cancelled due to weather.

Foundation Liaison: Roger Mazur reported that the Foundation has received reports from both Dr. Rodionendo and Dr. Carol Wilson, and that both will be receiving their last grant installment this year. Dr Yuval Sapir has requested a new grant for new research on genetic markers.

Historical Resources: Anne Lowe stated she receives numerous questions from the public, as she is still listed as a reference in numerous publications.

Judges: Judy Keisling noted that 30 judges have been dropped for non-payment of dues. There are currently 814 certified judges. She has been redesigning paperwork to reflect the new change in training requirements of in-garden training.

Judges Handbook: Roy Epperson proposed changes to the Handbook for Judges and Show. The following changes were approved in principle:

- That the designation of Judges' titles be: Student (not a judge), Apprentice (A), Garden/Exhibition (G/E), Senior (S), Retired (R)(cannot present a for-credit judges' training class), Master (M)(formerly Emeritus), and Overseas (OS).
- That a fully accredited AIS judge is any currently approved judge in the following categories: G/E, S, M, and OS.
- That the following statement in the Judges Handbook on page eight be rescinded: These judges (Retired/Master) may be used as a show judge if needed by a show committee. They are to be assigned to a panel with an accredited judge or an active Master judge.
- That an approved judges training class be defined as: A structured in-classroom or in-garden instruction for 2 or more participants, presented by a fully accredited AIS judge. A written test of at least 10 questions for each hour of training credit shall be administered, discussed and filed with the regional JT Chair.
- That the current requirements for in-garden training be reaffirmed.
- That the current scale of points in the Judges Handbook for the Artistic division be retained.

Library: Keith McNames has tendered his resignation, and a new Librarian is being sought.

Policy: Betty Roberts plans to complete a database for all motions made by the AIS Board of Directors for the past 15 years, and have it for the 2006 Fall Board meeting.

Public Relations: Joyce Poling has tendered her resignation from the Public Relations/Marketing chair in order to co-chair AIS programs, slides, and speakers with husband Avery Poling. President Plank recommended and the board approved the appointment of Bob Pries to the Chair of Public Relations/Marketing.

Programs, Slides, and Speakers: Avery & Joyce Poling reported having a list of eighteen people willing to give iris programs. A separate list of speakers willing to give judges training is also available. A board discussion explored the merits of producing a judges training CD for those clubs and affiliated that cannot afford to bring in a speaker for judges training.

Publications: Maureen Mark reported that the Nies Chronicles booklet is ready for sale. The board approved Epperson's motion: *That the Eric Nies Chronicles be sold for \$25 a copy and made available through the Storefront. Mark also reported that two other publications are in the works: A guide for hybridizers, and a book on artistic design. It was also observed that a booklet on how to start an affiliate is needed.

Section Liaison: Jim Morris relayed a suggestion voiced at the Section Leaders meeting that since each of the sections has a webmaster, a yearly webmaster meeting could be held at the spring convention.

Robins: Susan Boyce reported that the e-robins have been slow, as most people are using iris-hort, iris-photos and other iris websites. Invitations to join the paper robins have been going out with new member packets.

RVP Representative: Carol Goldsberry brought up the need to have a booklet on how to start an AIS affiliated. To prepare this booklet a committee was appointed consisting of Carol Goldsberry, Bob Plank, Bob Keup, Louise Carson, and Brad Kasperek.

AIS Membership Survey: Bob Pries reported that last years survey was a success with a large number of people responding. A new survey is being handed out at this convention.

Photo Contest: Kitty Loberg reported the deadline for photo submission is August 31, 2006.

Youth: Cheryl Deaton announced the Ackerman Essay winners: Rachel Thormann, Region 2, (12 and under age group), and Grace Farley, Region 21 (13 and up age group). Cheryl stated that she receives many request for money to initiate local youth programs that she cannot always grant because all presently authorized youth funds are restricted to other purposes. Pries recommended and the board approved: •

- That we create an additional restricted Youth Fund for the benefit of the AIS Youth committee to spend on youth activities.

Scientific Advisory Committee: Gary White observed that new proposals for funding iris related research have not been considered by the AIS Board since 2004.

Nomination Committee: Paul Gossett reported that the slate of nominees to be considered as candidates for the four director positions on the American Iris Society Board of Directors are: Carol Goldsberry (22), Donna James (2), John Jones (14), Brad Kasperek (12), Kitty Loberg (14), Joyce Poling (15), Lorena Reid (13), and Betty Roberts (20).

Executive Session: The Board of Directors met in executive session to select the 2006 Director Nominees. Nominees elected for three-year terms that will expire in 2009 are: Donna James, John Jones, Brad Kasperek, and Joyce Poling.

Bulletin Editor: Bruce Filardi asked to have the obituary notice policy re-addressed and verified. After discussion the board crafted, recommended and adopted a new policy: That obituaries may be published in the Bulletin of The American Iris Society at no charge for persons whose leadership and dedication to the ideals of the Society are of genuine and obvious distinction. Among such persons are: RVPs, hybridizers who have received at least three Awards of Merit (AM) or one higher award; and Directors of Officers of AIS. The Editor of the Bulletin has discretion to edit all obituaries for length and may publish an obituary for a prominent irisarian who does not meet the criteria stated above. If desired, space may be purchased at the then current rates of publication of an obituary for person(s) not meeting these criteria. The paid obituary will carry the printed statement "Paid for by friends of"

Insurance: Michelle Snyder reported that she spoke to the affiliated, sections, and RVP Board of Counselors at their meetings at this convention. Her purpose was to once again emphasize to these groups that AIS liability insurance is there to protect all, whether AIS members, or non AIS members, in iris related activities should something happen and someone outside the group is injured and files a claim against an individual, as AIS affiliated organization, or the AIS. A suggestion was made that a fact sheet be published in the Bulletin as well as on the AIS website on the hows and whys we need the AIS insurance. The current yearly premium for the insurance is \$17,845. Bonino stated that donations made this year have helped greatly in covering this cost and are greatly appreciated. There are no plans to start assessing fees to every club to help cover this cost.

RVP Counselor: Louise Carson announced election results from the RVP Counsel meeting. Elected for 2007: Chair-Pegi Naranjo, Secretary-David Nitka, RVP Board Representative-Bob Keup. Nominating Committee Representatives: Carolyn Hawkins, and Ann Violette.

Symposium: Gerry Snyder reported that the RVPs have chosen to continue to do the tabulating of the symposium votes. Discussion at the RVP meeting indicated that the current format of the ballot should be kept.

Nominating Committee Appointments: President Plank appointed Gary White and Brad Kasperek as Board representatives to the 2007 Nominating Committee. White and Kasperek will join Carolyn Hawkins, Ann Violette and Debby Cole as members of this Committee.

Meeting dates for the 2006 Fall Board meeting in Kansas City, Missouri were announced. Judy Keisling will serve as the local chairman overseeing Fall Board meeting arrangements.

President Plank expressed the Board's appreciation and thanked John Ludi, Convention Chairman, and all the Region 13 convention committee members for hosting this remarkable 2006 Portland, Oregon National convention.

Meeting adjourned Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at 10:10pm. 

Visit the AIS web site at www.irises.org

In Memoriam: Arthur G. Blodgett


(1908 – 2006)

by Char Holte, Wisconsin, and Jim Morris, Missouri

A long-time irisarian, Arthur G. Blodgett of Region 8, passed away April 21, 2006, at LindenGrove Health Care Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He died on his 98th birthday.

Blodgett was a member of the Evangelical & Reformed United Church of Christ and the Waukesha Kiwanis Club, and he devoted his working career to his business, Waukesha Roofing Co., of which he was the president and treasurer. He was a charter member and past president of the Wisconsin Iris Society and a charter member of the American Hemerocallis Society. Art served as Regional Vice President of Region 8 for 1974-1976.

Art started growing irises in 1935 and hybridized tall bearded irises beginning in 1937. For many years he annually grew one to two thousand TB seedlings along with a collection of named TBs, medians, dwarfs, Siberians and spurias. Art introduced 14 irises into commerce. His wife and son also hybridized and made iris introductions. In 1969 when the AIS Convention was held in Milwaukee, Art served as treasurer and registrar and his garden was one of those on tour. His GALA ROSE (68, TB) won the President's Cup in 1969 as voted by the convention attendees. His best known iris in Wisconsin was his red self CHIEF WAUKESHA (78, TB) which won an HM in 1980 and is grown in many gardens throughout its namesake town of Waukesha.

Art was preceded in death by his wife, Romona, in 1995. He is survived by his son Eugene (Linda) of Waukesha, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. 

In Memoriam: Lee Eugene Eberhardt


(1915 – 2005)

by Jim Morris, Missouri

Lee Eberhardt of Region 6 recently passed away in November 2005 at the Springfield, Ohio Masonic Home, just 23 days short of his 90th birthday. He was born in Barberton, Ohio, and was a U. S. Army World War II veteran, and later graduated from the University of Akron with bachelor's and master's degrees.

A 45-year member of AIS, Lee also was active in the Miami Valley Iris Society and the Median Iris Society. He served MIS as a two-time President, serving from 1969-1971 and 1979-1982. During his first term (he took over mid-1969 when Harry Kuesel resigned to devote full time to the 1970 AIS Golden Jubilee Convention in New York City), MIS published "The Eupogon Iris Species in Cultivation" and a translation of Prodan's "Eupogon Iris Species" – two scholarly and valuable additions to the median iris literature.

Eberhardt was a Master Judge for AIS and maintained an MIS Median Display Garden for many years. He was honored to be selected to judge at the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy. He wrote two articles for the *AIS Bulletin*, one being "Remembering – How Median Irises Began" in the July 1994 issue. He served his Region as Assistant RVP from 1976-79 and as their Judges' Training Chairman from 1980-81.

Former AIS President Hal Stahly recalls, "He was a very knowledgeable garden judge and particularly a stickler in insisting on good bud count. In the past he attended most regional meetings and several national conventions. I remember Lee as a pleasant person to work with and a good irisarian." 


In Memoriam: *Gene Gaddie*

(1935 – 2005)

by Jim Morris, Missouri

We were saddened to learn of the death of hybridizer and Region 21 member Gene Gaddie. He was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and moved with his parents to Stanton, Nebraska, in 1944. A 1957 graduate of the University of Nebraska with a B.S. in Business, Gene served in the U.S. Navy from 1957-58 as a lieutenant junior grade.

In addition to AIS membership, Gene was active in the Elkhorn Valley Iris Society and the Median Iris Society. Gene hybridized many irises and introduced via Gaddies' Gardens. He was awarded 18 HMs and three AMs by the AIS Judges. Median growers know him best through his RAZZLE-DAZZLE (86 SDB) and LITTLE SNOW LEMON (84 IB) while dwarf enthusiasts remember BURGUNDY BLUES (85 MDB). Each of these won their HM and went on to win an Award of Merit. RAZZLE-DAZZLE is especially prolific and is very popular with AIS Youth members. 50's rock and rollers remember the song. All three of his AM winners have grown in my garden and the song has been played many times.

His 18 HMs have included 5 SDBs, 4 IBs, 2 BBs, 3 TBs, 2 MDBs, 1 Siberian and 1 Spuria. His lone Siberian, PRAIRIE IN BLOOM (90) was named for the theme of the 1990 AIS Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. Gene will live on through his iris progeny. 

In Memoriam

James Gristwood (New York)

Mrs. Charles Katz (Michigan)

Wava Ludi (Oregon)

Gertrude Songer McDonald (Oregon)

Neil Mogensen (North Carolina)

Edith Wolford (Texas)

In Memoriam: *Jim Gristwood*


(1922-2006)

by Ron James, New York

Former Region 2 RVP James A. Gristwood, 84, of Phoenix, NY, died July 28, 2006. He was born in Clay, NY, and was a resident of Phoenix since 1948. He was office manager for Lyon Metal Products in Syracuse for 28 years. He served in the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, and was a member of the United Methodist Church, the American Iris Society since 1960, and a life member of VFW Post # 5540 in Phoenix.

Jim was predeceased by his wife Lillian Q. Gristwood, former AIS Exhibitions Chairman, in 1997; a daughter Peggy Davenport in 2003; and a son, Arthur Gristwood, in 1996. He is survived by daughter Cindy L. Gristwood of Phoenix; a sister Laura Piersal of Pennellville; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Gristwood was very active in Region 2 and served in many leadership roles from acquisitions through auditing and archives, and was RVP 1971-74. He was New York State Fair show chairman from 1968-71 and Central New York Iris Society auction chairman from 1966-95.

He was well liked by all who knew him, and willing to lend a hand to all. He tended a large vegetable garden, giving the harvest to any and all who visited. A worker, even at age 84 when his cellar wall gave way, he carried every stone up the stairs in a bucket and to the back of his property. After the removal was completed, he constructed a new eleven block high wall that was 20 feet long. Then he helped his granddaughter install vinyl siding on her two-story house. He lugged the 40-foot ladder from one side of the house to the other by himself. I always told him he was around when men were made of steel and ships were made of wood. He was a wonderful friend and will be missed by all. Goodbye, Pop. 

AIS Contributions

compiled by Donna James, Donations Secretary

Memory Of:	Fund Code – RJ
Sid DuBose (OK)	
Paul W. Gossett (OK)	Gen
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Donna Fox (SD)	
Elkhorn Valley Iris Society	Gen
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How to Make a Donation to the AIS Active Funds:

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To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.

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Beardless Irises

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The Family Iris (Available as Slide Program or CD): This set is an introduction to the world of iris. It shows the different classes of bearded iris and the different species of iris. It can be used for all levels of viewers, new to experienced iris growers. Great for garden club programs.

To rent slide sets or to purchase CDs, contact:

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AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

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SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

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Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check for \$7.50 to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Ron James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074; <ron2don@alltel.net> Rental fee \$10.00. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Japanese Irises.

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Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check for \$5.00 to Median Iris Society (MIS). One set free per year to affiliates.

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Rebloomers: Contact George Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; <info@suttoniris.com>. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

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Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2½ inch wide.

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Please note new advertising rates, effective for the Bulletin of April, 2005. Contact George & Margaret Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; (559) 784-5107; <info@suttoniris.com>

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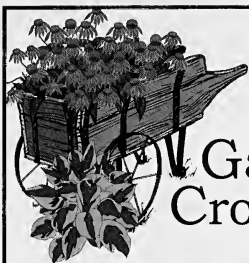
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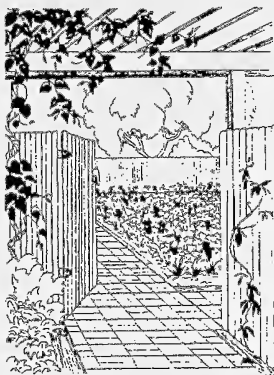
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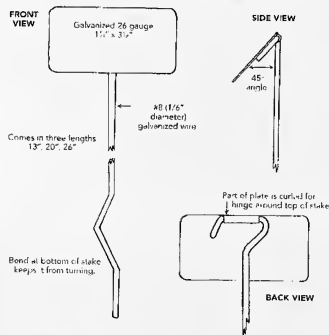
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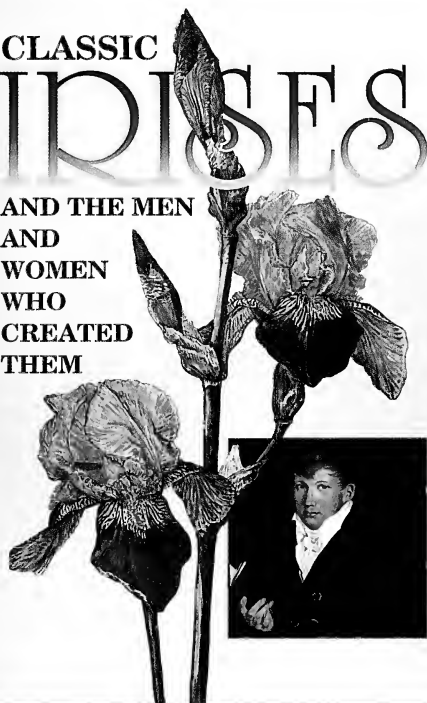
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